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Sabaki

How to Manage Weak Stones

by Yang Yi-Lun 7p

Based on material presented at the 2002 NJ Yang 7p Go Workshop, held June 27th through June 30th, 2002 at the Ramada Inn of Mahwah, NJ, USA

Lecture notes compiled and edited by John C. Stephenson

Blurb

In the normal course of a go game, you're eventually faced with managing a weak stone. Knowing how to handle the situation adroitly may mean the difference between winning and losing.

This study guide presents a discourse about sabaki techniques, written in the typically lucid and hard-hitting style of Mr. Yang, 7-dan professional. Following his discourse are a dozen practice problems to help you determine if you have absorbed the material. Don't be deceived by the small size of this book. It's packed with applicable information and likely will require several readings to fully master. But, as you apply the techniques and develop your judgment, your regular opponents will be in for a surprise as you demonstrate your newly acquired flexibility and lightness.

Please win gracefully and enjoy.

Introduction

To play go we must know how to manage weak stones. Essentially, three paths are possible:

1. Run
2. Live quickly
3. Sacrifice

Deciding which of the above to pursue should usually be clear if we ask ourselves the correct questions:

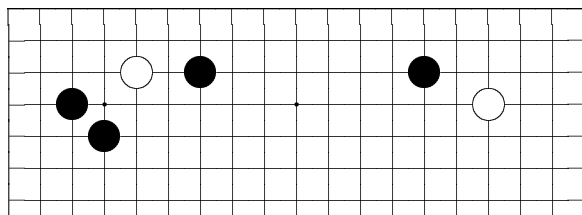
1. If I run, will I separate off an opponent's weak group and thereby get counter-attack opportunities, or will I just become burdened with a heavy group? If your group will simply become heavy, find another way.
2. Is the stone important or is the area valuable? If so, living fast will save the important stone or destroy the opponent's valuable area.
3. Is the area not so valuable? Then, sacrificing it to achieve a gain nearby is often the best way.

In general, when the situation is difficult, find useful forcing moves nearby and make a second neighboring battle. You will win one of them. Getting 50 percent in a sabaki situation is good.

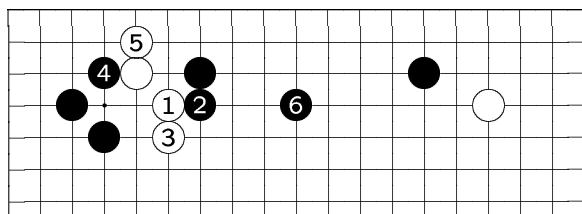
Sometimes to determine whether to live, sacrifice or run, it could be important to play an asking move. If the opponent plays tight to kill, give it up for an external benefit; if the opponent plays soft, then live inside.

Section 1: Discourse

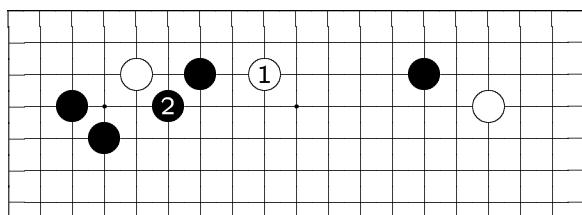
Model 1



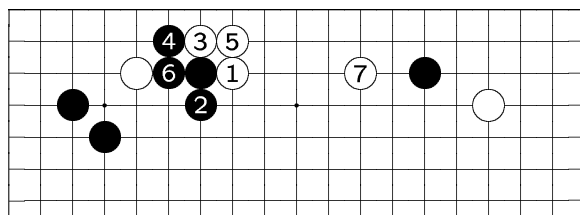
Focusing locally on the top for the purpose of the sabaki discussion, White wants to properly handle his weak stone in the upper left corner. It is hard for White to live in such a narrow area.



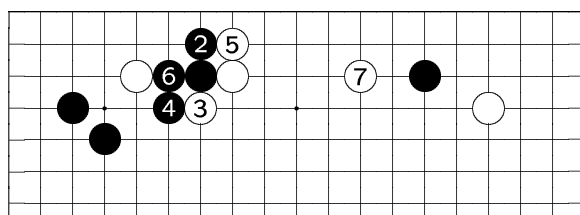
1: Poor handling of a weak corner stone.
6: If White merely escapes, he will become heavy, as the sequence shows. Playing this way is poor in the early opening phase. Since running is bad and living is also doubtful, sacrifice seems the only reasonable alternative.



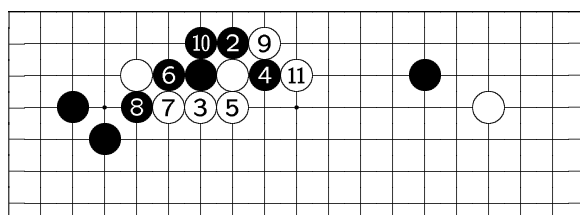
1: Unimaginative.
2: After Black captures the white stone cleanly, White has no other good forcing moves. White's forcing move was not imaginative enough.



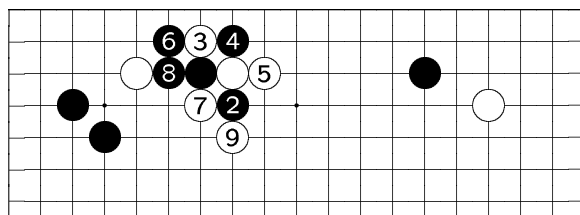
1: This produces more forcing moves and is able to make a better position. It creates a reasonable sabaki pattern.



3: A useful forcing move.
7: White makes a nice position on the top side.

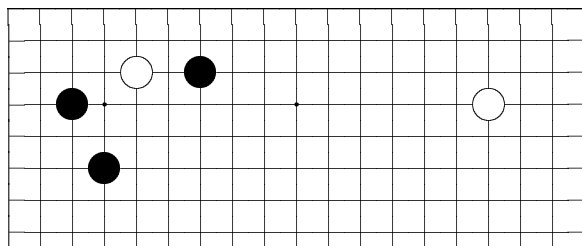


3: This is the correct way to produce more forcing moves.
11: Black captures a stone, but White obtains a compensating profit.

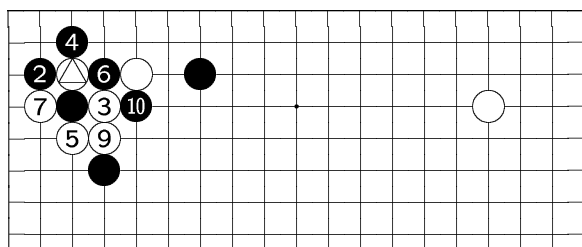


3: This is correct.
9: Black kills a white stone, but White captures the outside stone.

Model 2



Here the corner is more open due to the black stone on the 6-4 point being farther away from the corner, enough so White may try to live in the valuable area with his weak stone.

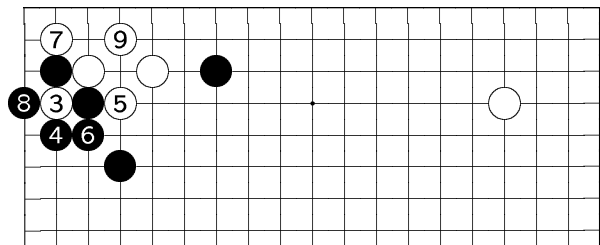


①
at △,
⑧ at ①

1: White takes the 3-3 point, typical to begin a base.

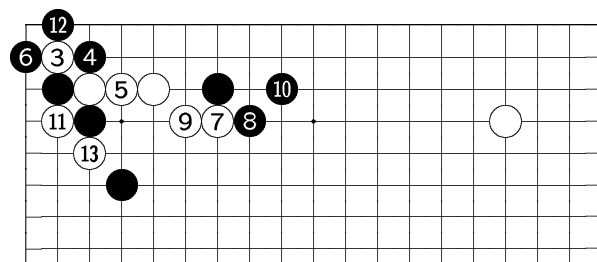
2: After the necessary defensive hane, White considers how to play to begin sabaki.

10: Black cuts, taking advantage. This is not good enough for White.



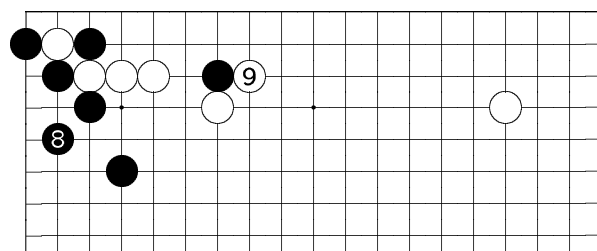
3: Both the crosscut and the double hane are often useful sabaki techniques. Reading determines which one works best.

9: White achieves a reasonable eye-rich shape after applying the crosscut, but still must check the double hane.

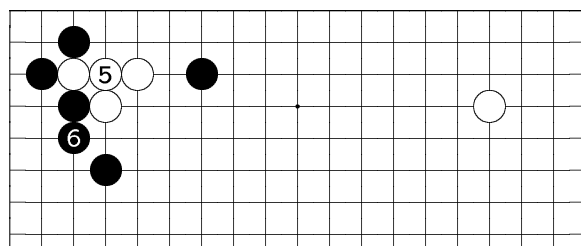


7: An essence of sabaki is to make another battle close by, because then you will win one of them. This white move will gain on the right if Black ignores him, or gain on the left if Black answers directly.

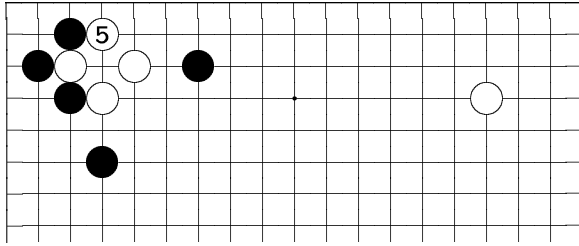
13: White successfully makes sabaki, catching a black stone.



9: If Black defends on the left, White nails a stone, making a fine sabaki on the outside.

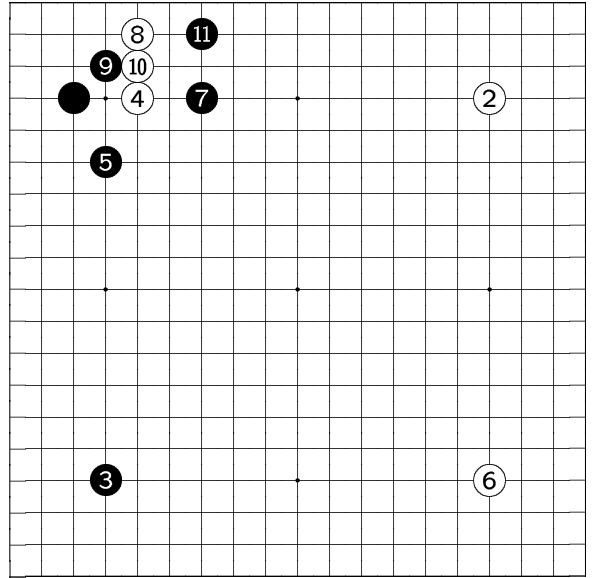


6: White is heavy.



5: This ko is too tough for White this early.

Model 3

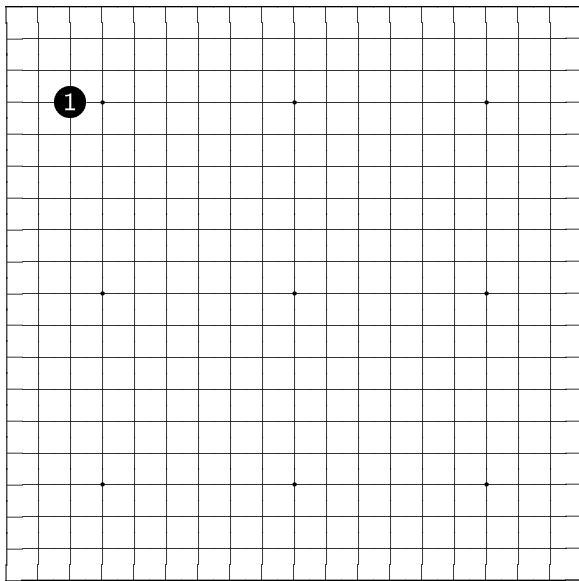


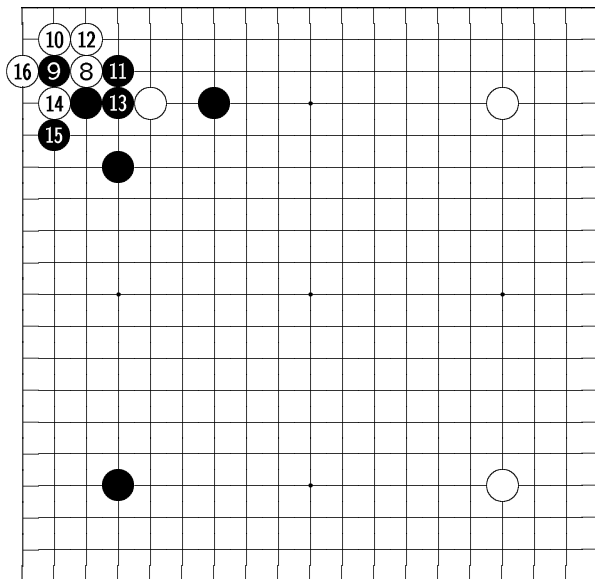
6: White tenukis. Normally White should continue when faced with two stones to one stone in the corner.

7: So, Black tries to punish White right away. Of course, White may tenuki yet again. But (probably later on) if White wants to do something here, what is the best way for White to handle the weakened stone? Are there any useful forcing moves?

8: Be careful in a sabaki situation. Don't play a gote move unless you see a good result. Play either a forcing move or tenuki.

11: Here, the inward jump accomplished nothing. White remains heavy. This is not sabaki.



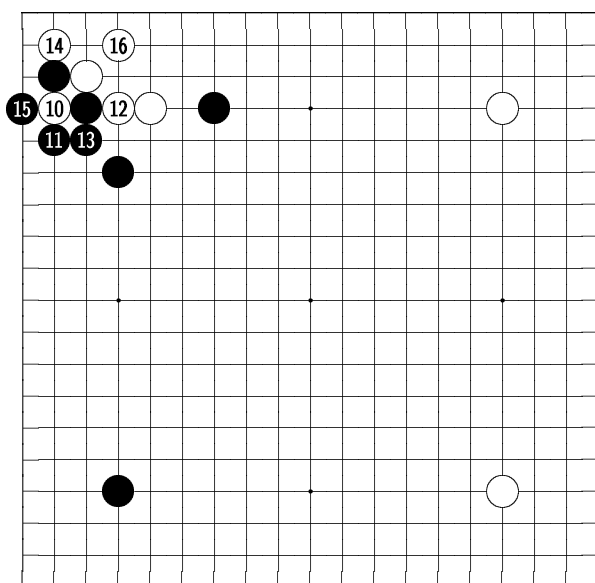


8: This is a typical base making forcing move.

9: After the necessary defensive black hane, White considers how to best make sabaki.

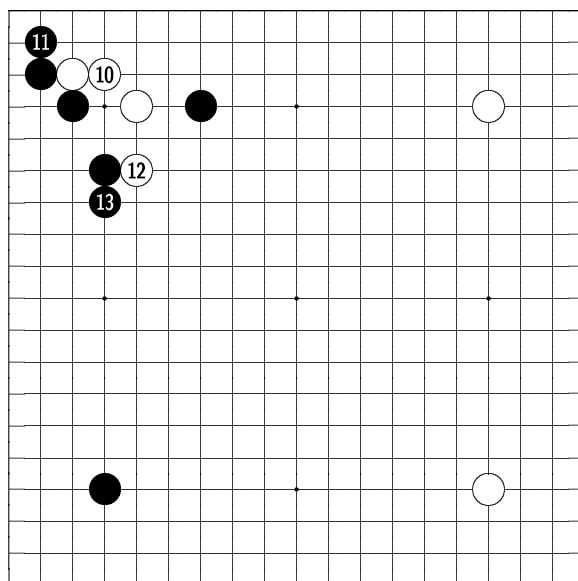
10: White may try the double hane.

16: The outside stone is gone but White lives in the corner. This may be enough in certain situations, but White can do better.

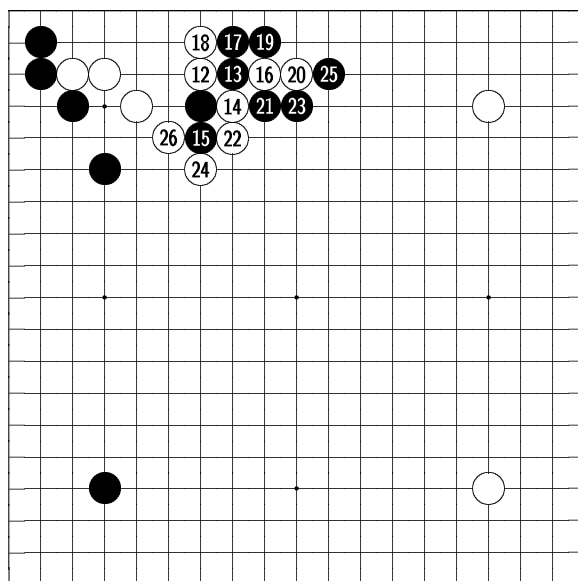


16: The crosscut seems to work better than the double hane. White did not give up the

outside stone and still got a comfortable position.



13: White gets heavier and Black gets stronger. This is really bad for White.

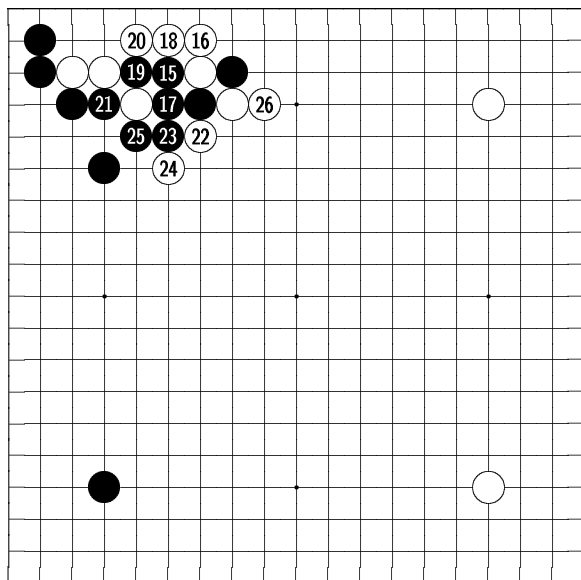


12: Instead of running White continues to make a base.

14: This crosscut is key to White's sabaki maneuver.

15: If Black thinks he can save both crosscut stones, he will try to extend here.

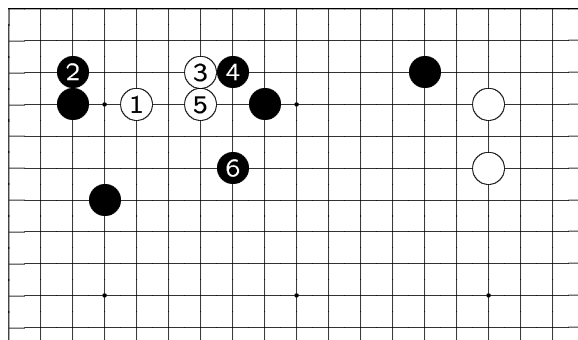
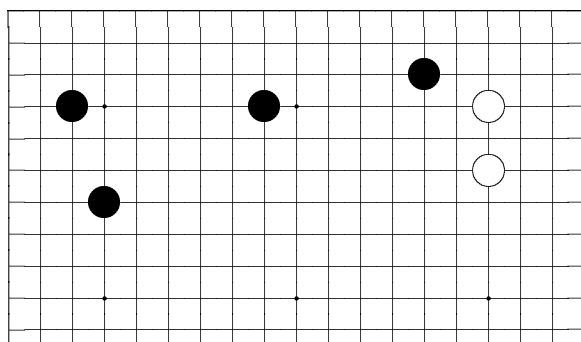
26: But then White captures near the center and is more powerful; the weak group became strong.



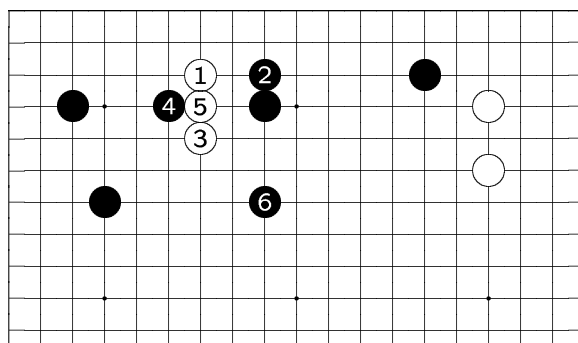
15: Since Black cannot save both crosscut stones, Black tries to use the inside stone as a sacrifice to separate White.

26: But White's result is excellent nevertheless. White gives up a stone to get a position. Sometimes you must touch a weak stone in a sabaki situation to win a battle.

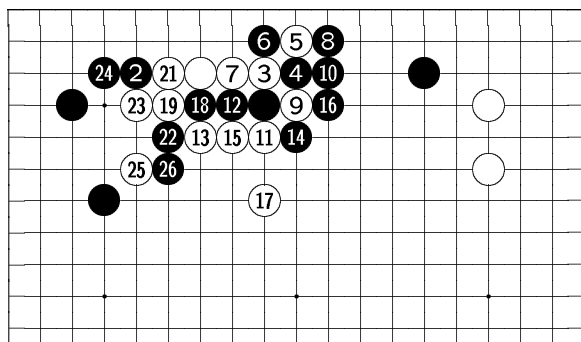
Model 4



- 1: White comes boldly into the black zone.
- 2: Black just patiently locks the corner. How can White handle this? White no longer has any forcing moves in the corner.
- 3: This is a normal move.
- 6: But Black attacks and White becomes heavy.

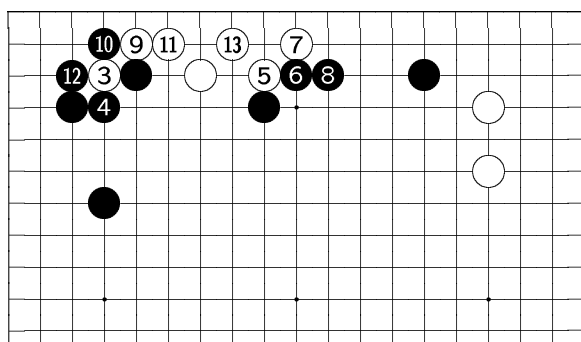


- 1: White looks for an easier move on the top to begin sabaki.
- 2: But Black does a similar maneuver on the side as he did previously in the corner. Should White try to live, sacrifice or run?
- 6: Running does not threaten Black in any way so it's inferior. White merely becomes heavy.

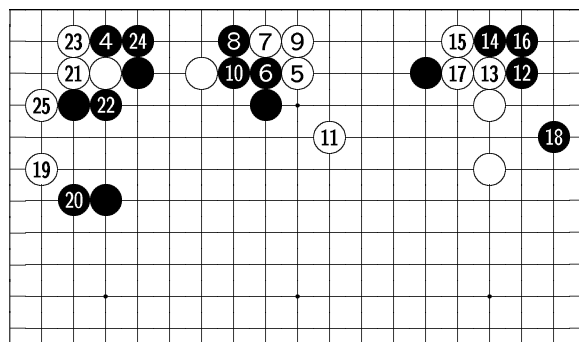


20
at 9

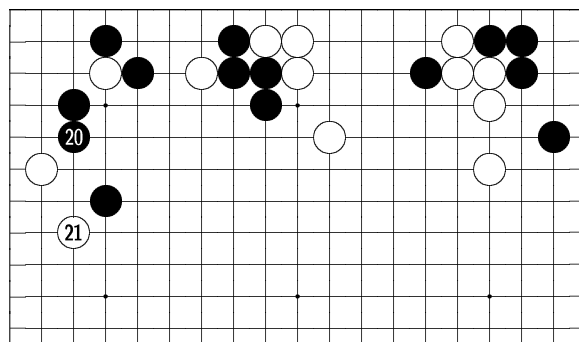
- 2: Black squeezes from the corner direction.
- 5: White attaches and uses the double hane to sacrifice a stone to make sabaki.
- 17: White gets out nicely.
- 18: If Black pushes out to create cutting points, how can White handle it?
- 26: White plays natural looking moves, but he cannot easily catch the two black stones, so White is in difficulties.



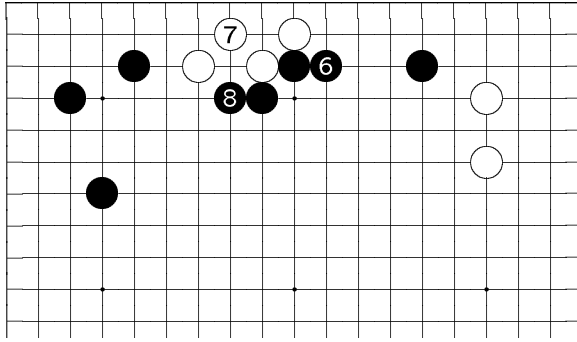
- 3: White prepares for sabaki by creating a battle nearby, believing he will win one of them.
- 8: Black plays calmly, which was the move that gave White difficulties without creating the second battle at the 3-4 point.
- 13: Now White can live immediately. White's sabaki has succeeded.



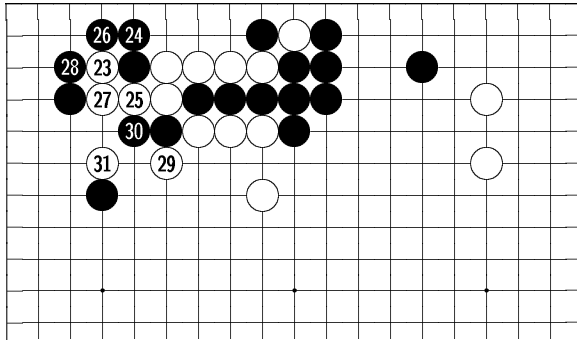
- 4: This move tries to prevent the sabaki. When Black plays more low stones it becomes harder for White to live. However, it is also not easy for Black to control the area.
- 5: White plays flexibly deciding to sacrifice.
- 19: White can still do something with this move.
- 20: Black closes from the outside.
- 25: White's corner aji transforms to a live group.



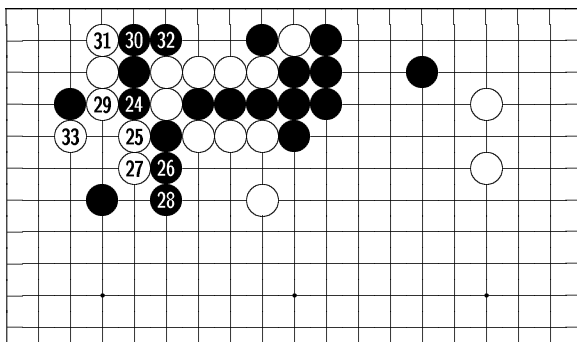
- 20: Black defends the corner.
- 21: But then White comes out. White has been flexible, which is the essence of sabaki. Making use of all stones is important. The inside sacrifice stones helped White make many useful outside moves.



6: Black plays calmly.
 8: Black takes the outside vital point. White is still heavy and low. White needs better preparation.

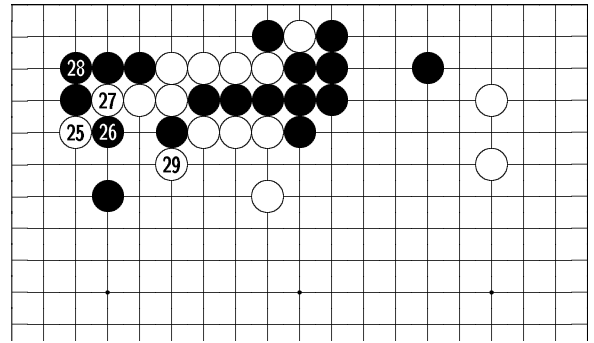


23: This is a clever clamp tesuji, asking Black what he wants.
 31: If Black descends from the clamp, then this sequence settles the situation simply.

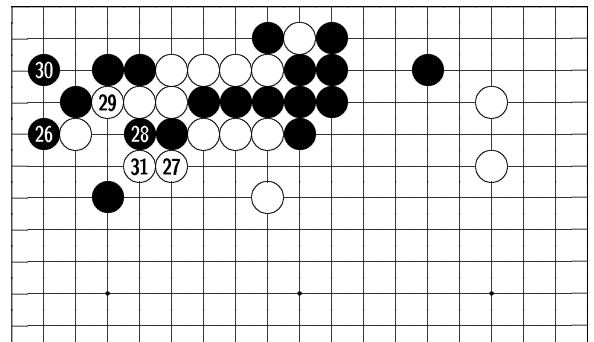


33: If Black comes out after the clamp, White squeezes. White sacrifices many stones but captures a big corner that was previously Black's territory. Therefore,

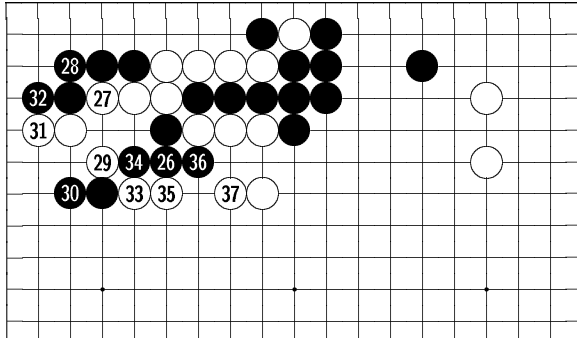
White is happy with the exchange. Also, the black outside remains imperfect.



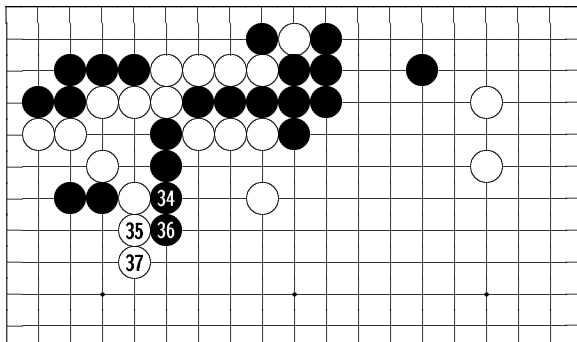
25: Since White's netting move in the variation failed, White makes another battle nearby. Black will have some perplexities when considering his responses.
 27: If Black resist, White merely pushes to create miai (reciprocal) threats as shown in the continuations. Black cannot handle this.



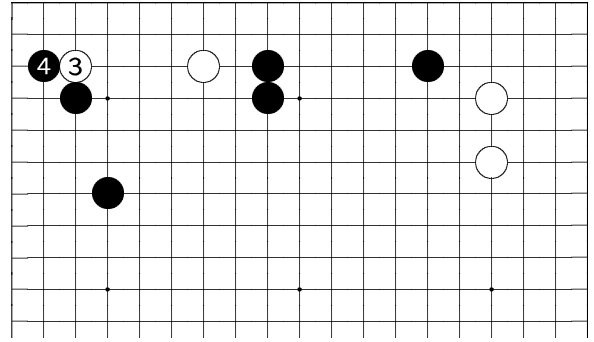
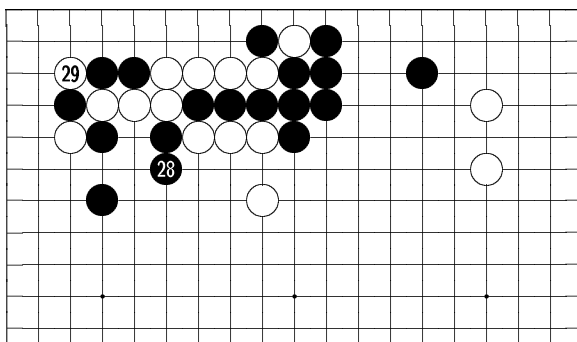
30: Black is forced to defend the corner.
 31: White catches two stones and becomes strong.



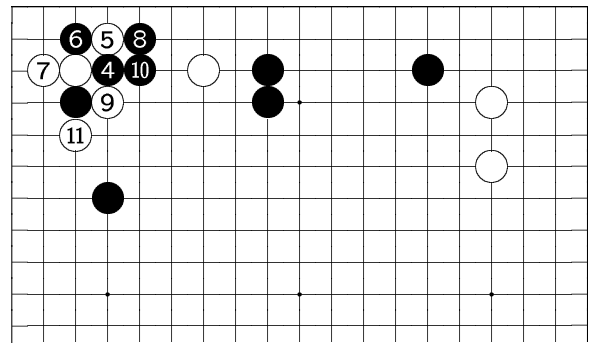
- 26: It seems Black must try to save a stone.
 27: White makes forcing moves against the black corner.
 30: This move is do-or-die.
 31: This is another forcing move.
 34: After cutting, all the cutting stones get caught.
 37: White has netted the black stones.



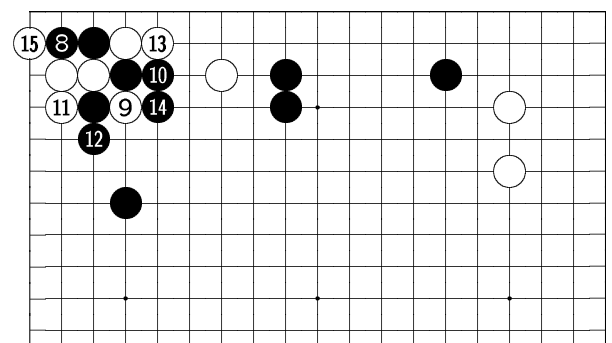
- 35: If Black tries to move out, White also moves out. This creates more troubles for Black than he can handle.



- 4: This is too easy for White.



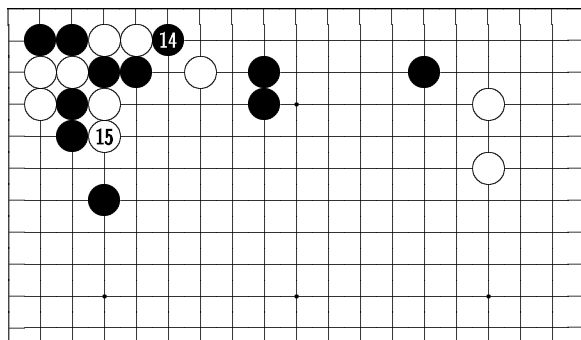
- 4: Black must try to separate the white stones.
 5: The double hane tries to keep the two white stones working together.
 11: White happily sacrifices a stone to catch a stone and make shape. This is good enough for White.



- 8: Black tries the most severe move.
 9: White must make some trouble, separating Black into three groups and getting more liberties.

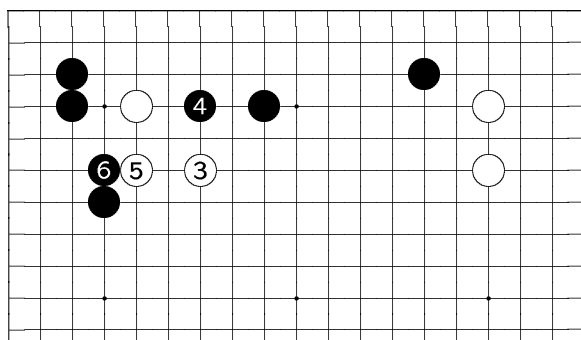
13: After this move, White threatens both the inside and outside black stones (check the ladder).

15: White is happy with the result.



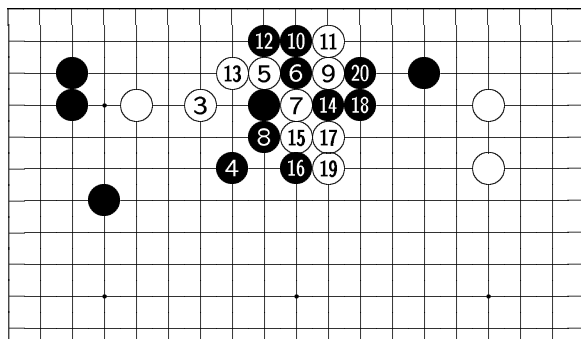
14: This move doesn't help.

15: White creates a double ladder.



3: White tries to lightly escape.

6: If White tries to save his original stone, which is in a valuable area, White will still be heavy. White must do better than this.



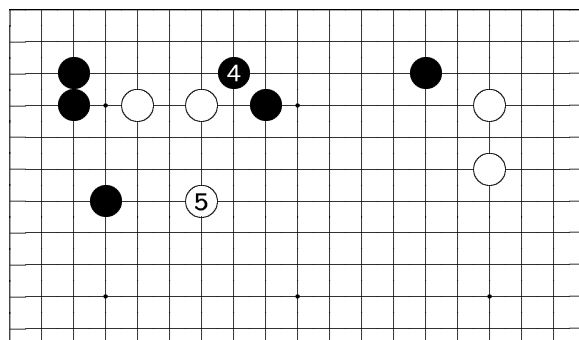
3: White tries a slower but more solid move.

4: Black maintains the pressure.

5: White tries for a base.

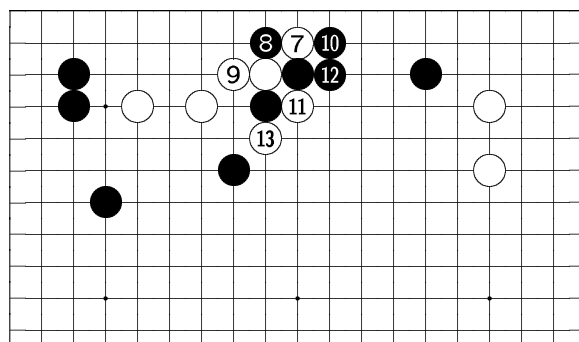
6: After Black plays a natural hane, White stops to read the two possible sabaki making moves; either the double hane or the cross-cut.

20: White has a harder time catching the inside black stone, since Black has nearby help with the stone in the upper right corner. The crosscut did not work out for White. In sabaki, good reading is necessary!



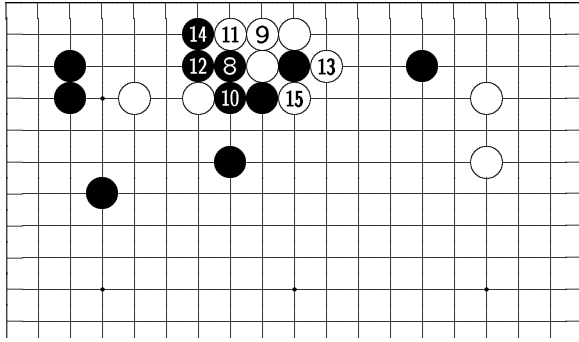
4: Black might squeeze to avoid sabaki.

5: White will not answer on the third line, but run directly, which is much better for White.

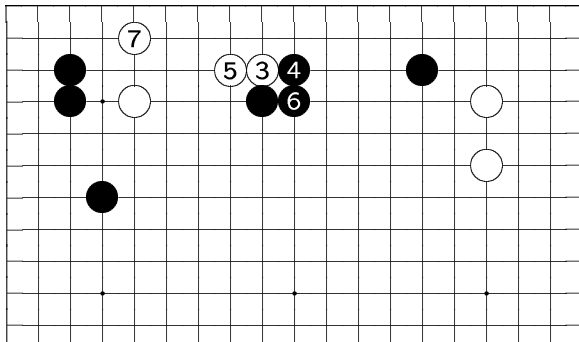


7: White tries the double hane.

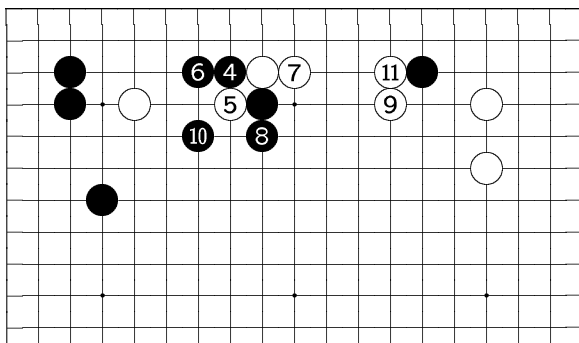
13: If Black answers the double hane straightforwardly, White easily makes sabaki after he captures a black stone. White is out.



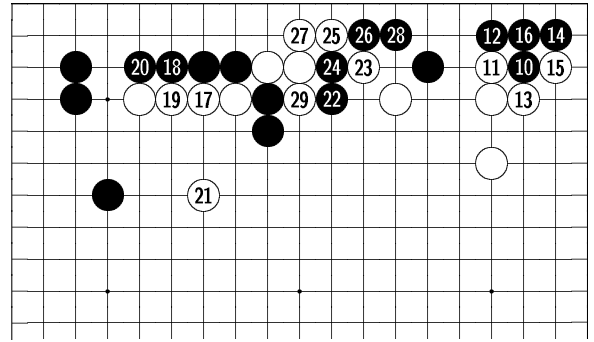
8: Black tries to separate White.
 15: In the ensuing battle, White lost two stones but captured one. This result is not too bad for White. White separated a single black stone in the upper right.



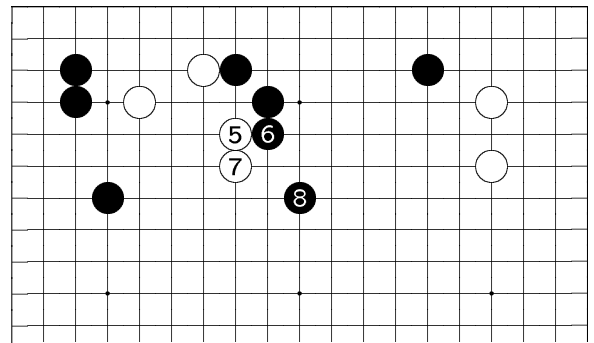
3: Since White did not like to give up two stones for one in another variation, White tries directly with this move. This is an example of answering an unusual move (Black's 3-3 stone) with an unusual move.
 4: If Black simply plays the hane, White proceeds to make a base in the black zone.
 7: White is content.



4: Black doesn't want to allow White to get an easy base, so Black tries to separate.
 11: White gets compensation on the right for giving up two stones on the left.

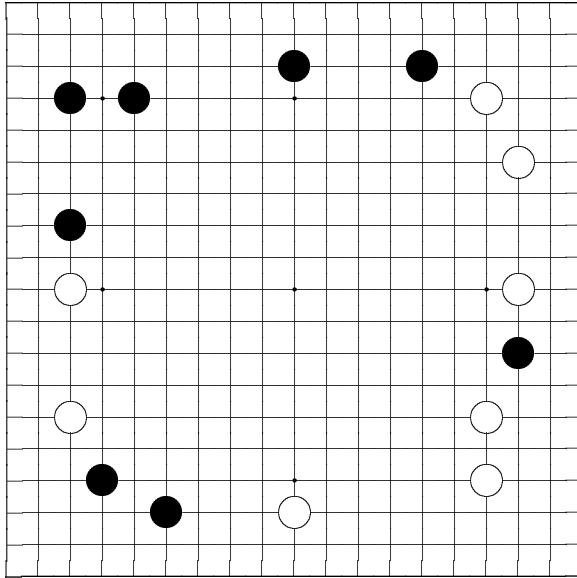


10: If Black dives into the upper right corner, he may be in for a surprise.
 16: White plays this way to get sente.
 17: White sets his stone in motion.
 18: Black has no choice but to defend the inside stones.
 21: With this move, the outside battle is not favourable to Black.
 29: This is one possible continuation.



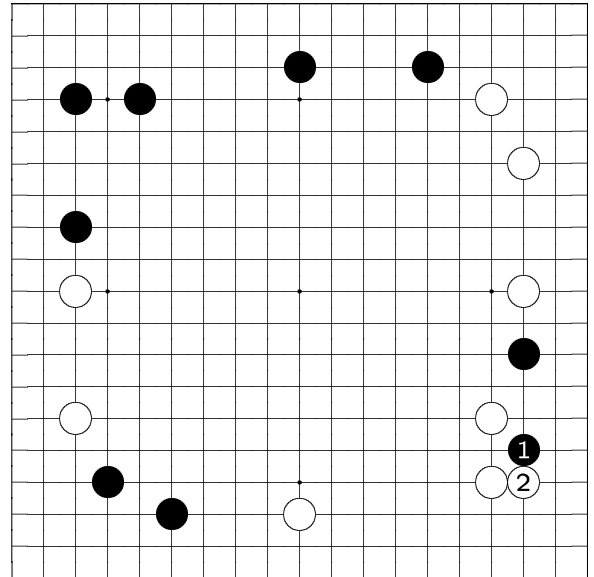
5: This is a fast way to run, which is better.
 8: But Black makes a nice position on the top side. This result is still not good for White.

Model 5

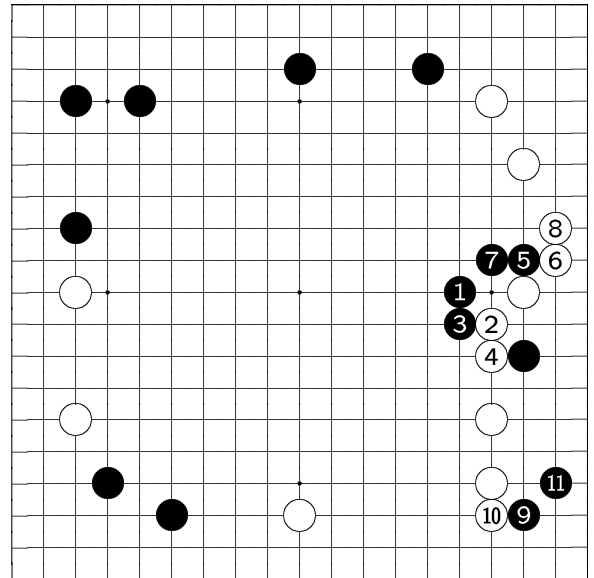
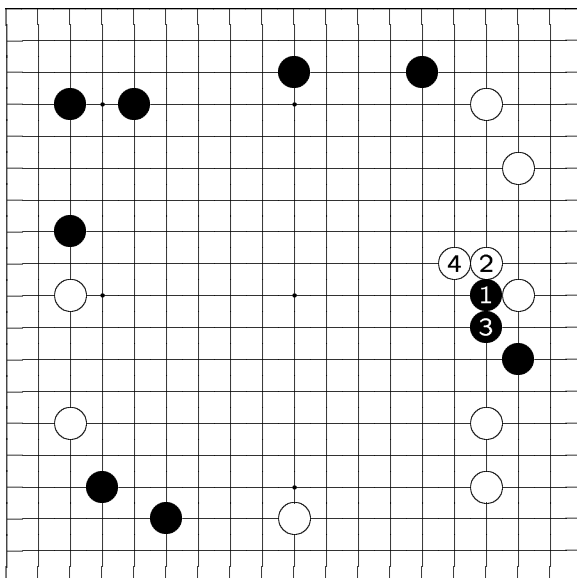


White has tightly squeezed the black stone on the right side. Ask how valuable and important is the black single stone. It is not important nor that valuable (the area is about 9 points). If Black just escapes, he'll lose the chance to invade the corner; however, if Black sacrifices the stone, he will be able to invade easily. Therefore, Black should try to give up the stone while making it useful.

1: Black attaches outside. This is good for running, but also makes White stronger.
4: It is also heavy for Black to play this way. Two negatives is not a sufficient result for Black.

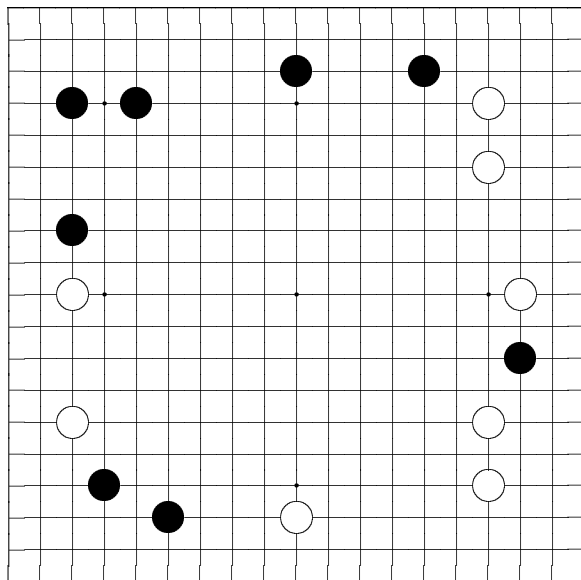


2: This exchange is terrible for Black. It's because Black has lost the larger corner invasion.

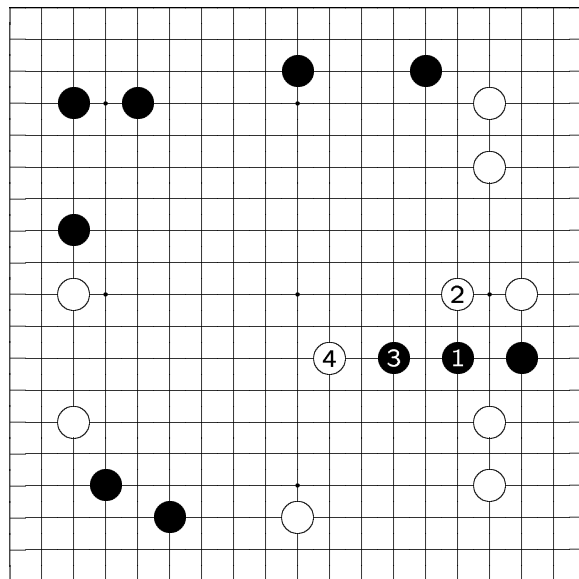


11: Black got four outside forcing moves in exchange for his invasion stone and great timing with the 3-3 invasion. Black's sabaki succeeded.

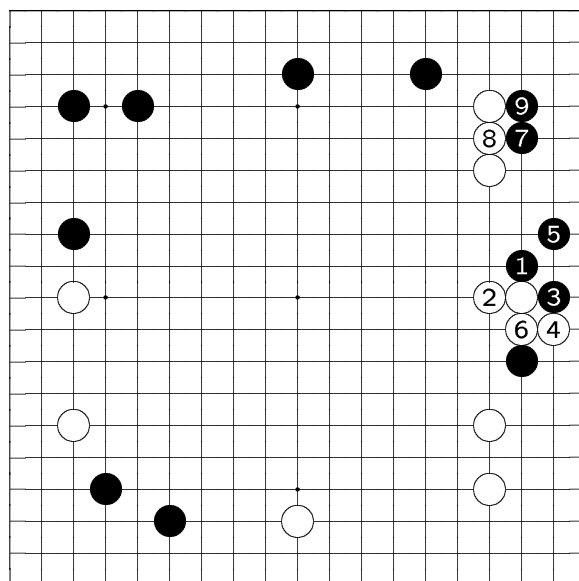
Model 6



What is the best path to sabaki for Black as he manages his weak stone on the right? The upper right white corner is larger than before because both white stones there are now on the fourth line. It's one large room.



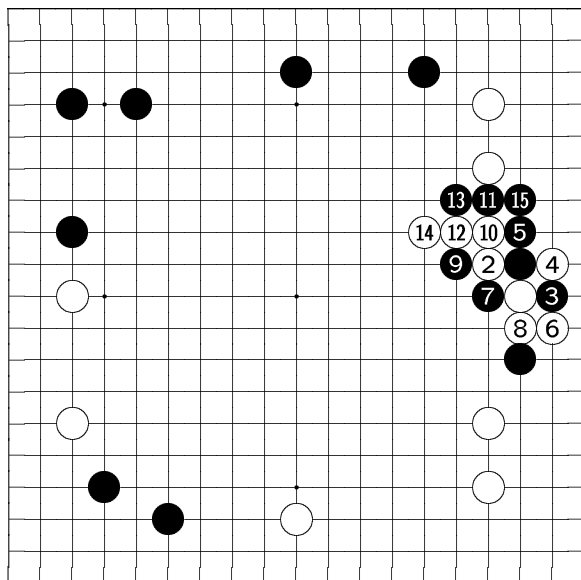
1: Black simply runs out, but because Black has no weak white groups to counterattack in this area, Black becomes heavy and loses control.



1: Black tries to make his invasion stone useful and looks to destroy the valuable top right.
2: If White simply stands up, Black gets forcing moves.

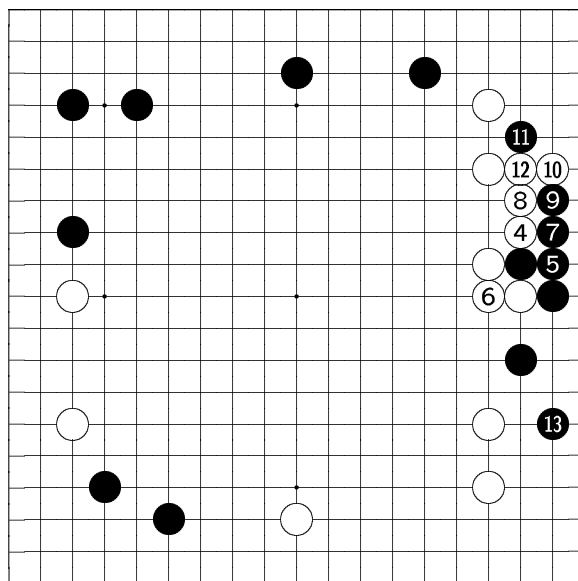
5: This is clever, better than the solid connection one line below, because it is closer to the corner.

7: Black decides to get territory in what was the white area.



3: Black responds to the hane with a double hane, often a useful sabaki technique.

15: Black sacrifices some stones to take advantage in the upper right. This is an excellent result for Black. The two white stones in the upper right have been damaged.



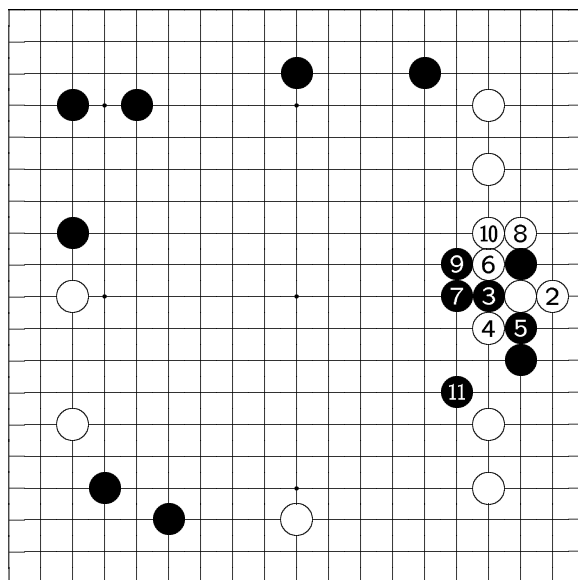
4: White tries to press Black down.

5: Black becomes heavy so can no longer sacrifice these stones. Black must get two eyes or escape.

9: Black forces up to here.

11: This is good timing.

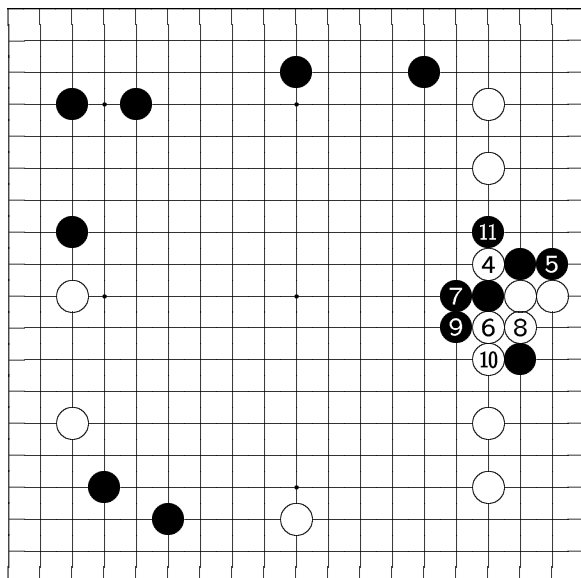
13: Black completes his eye space.



2: This time white extends down.

3: Black attempts to make all stones work together.

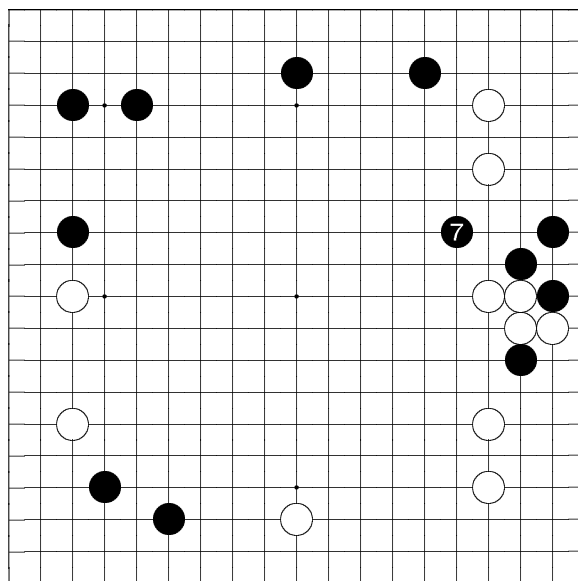
11: Black makes nice outside shape and is satisfied. In this case, this move is faster than if one line above and leaves less forcing moves for White.



4: This time White crosscuts. Black should help the weaker stone.

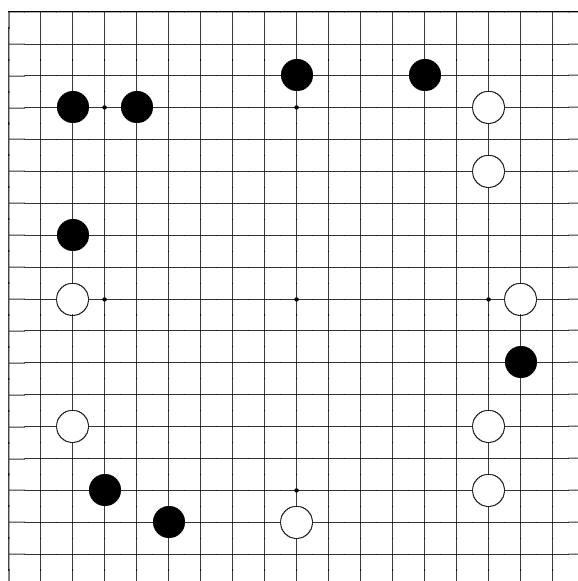
5: This move also puts pressure on White by taking away liberties.

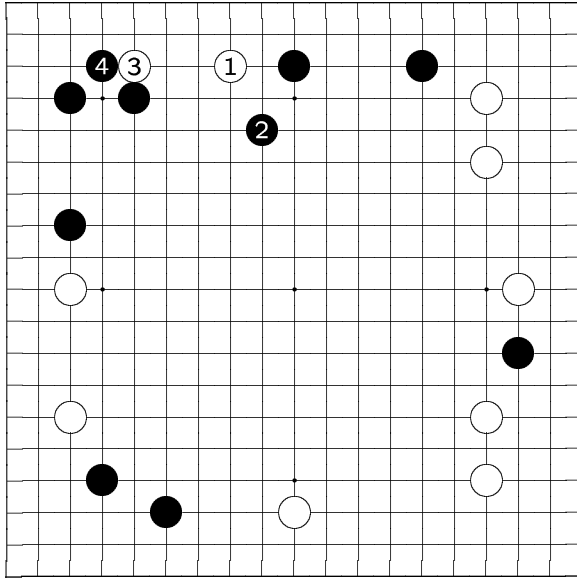
11: If Black gets a 50 percent in a sabaki fight, it's fine. Black catches a White stone, which is sufficient compensation for sacrificing a black stone.



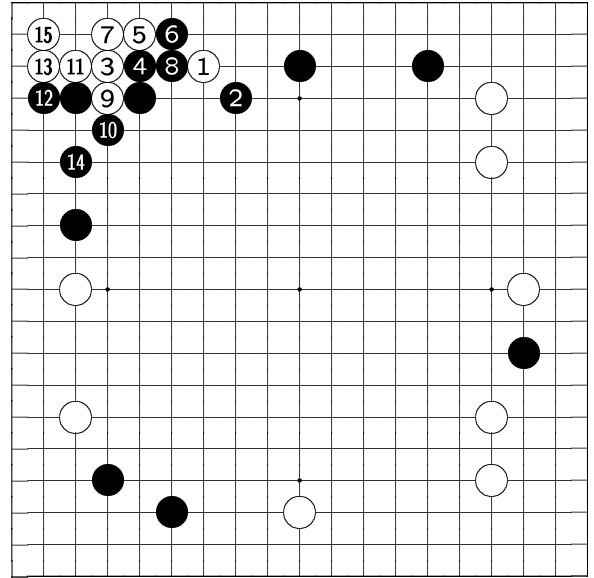
7: Black could also jump out.

Model 7

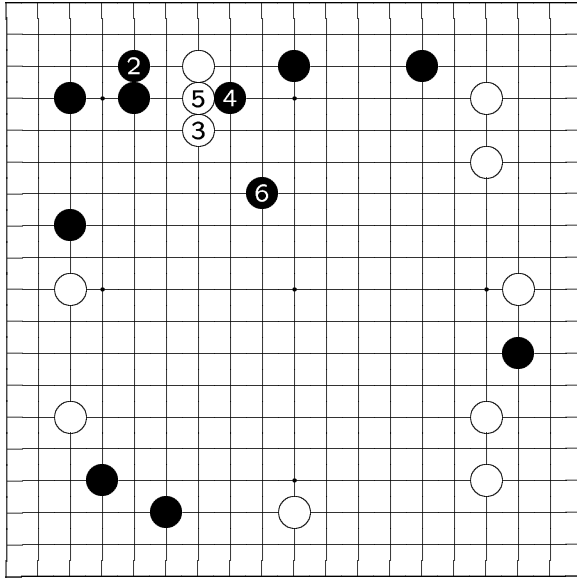




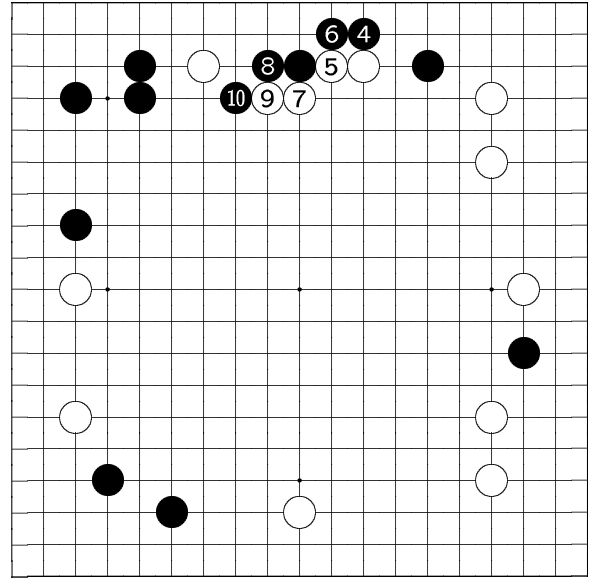
- 1: White starts action on the top.
- 2: Black attacks from the outside. How should White think about handling this? White should simply ask the proper questions. Is the white stone important? No. So it could be possible to give it up. Is the white stone valuable? Yes it is, because look how large the top area is. Therefore, it's better to save it than give it up. Since running is heavy, because there is no clear way to counterattack the opponent after running out, and White's stone is valuable, White decides to live right away.
- 4: Black makes really great shape and has no weaknesses. White gained nothing here.



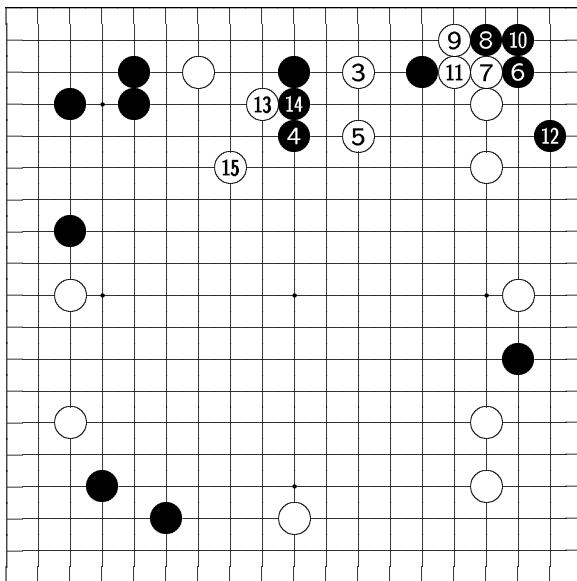
- 1: This time White's stone is one line to the left from the previous variation.
- 2: Black applies outside pressure. The white stone is valuable because the top left is a big room.
- 3: White aims at the corner but is close enough to the original invasion stone to work with it.
- 5: When Black tries to split White, White uses forcing moves.
- 9: White creates cutting points in the black shape, and is automatic.
- 14: Black needs to defend here.
- 15: So White lives.



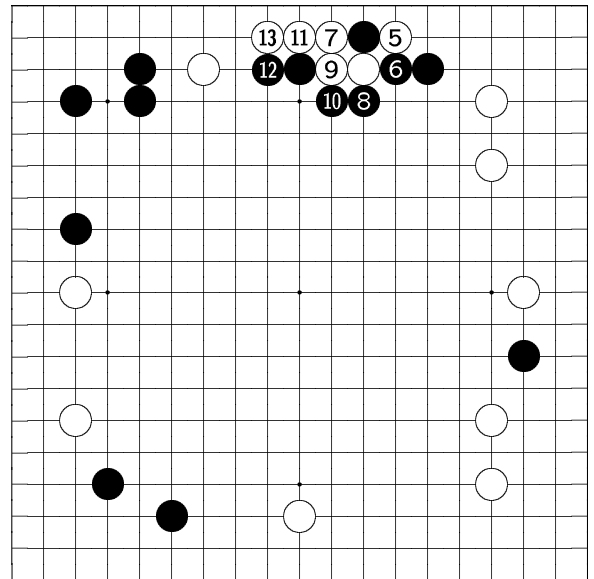
- 2: This time Black patiently seals the corner to see what White will do next.
 3: White runs out, but there is no nearby black weakness.
 6: White becomes heavy. This is not sabaki.



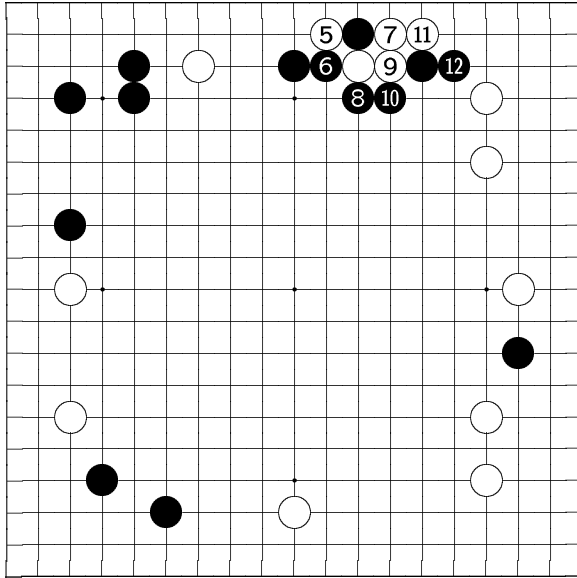
- 4: This is defensive.
 5: But this is slow.
 10: White did not get enough for giving Black a lot of secure territory.



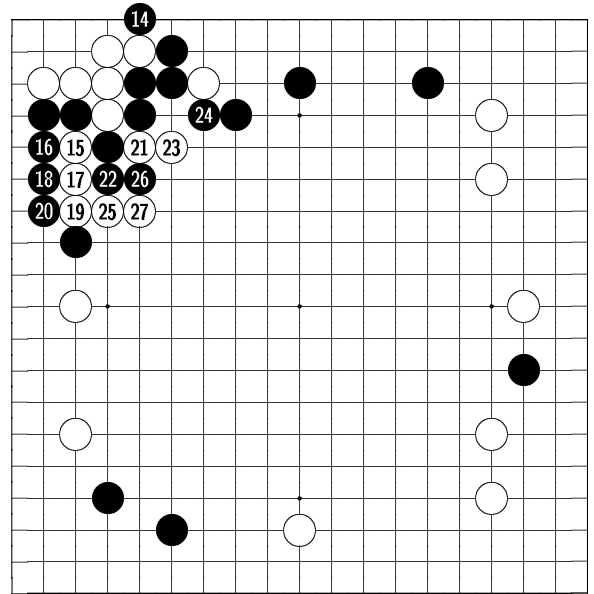
- 3: White tries to separate two weak black stones.
 15: White gets a playable running fight.



- 13: The hane on the right leads to saving all the white stones and destroying the top. This is a success for White.



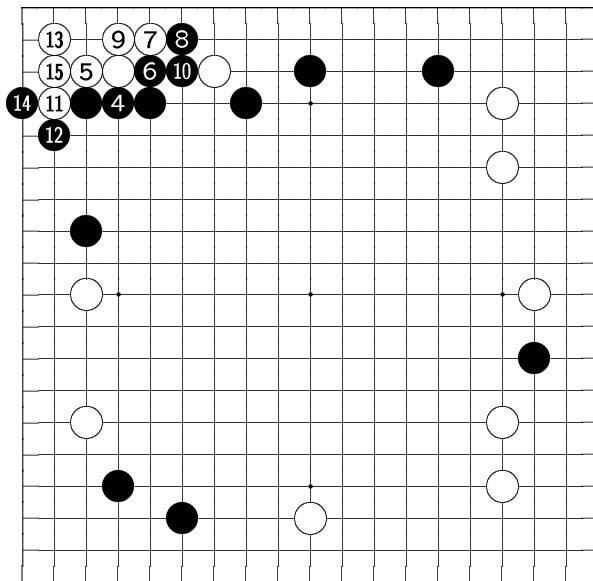
12: If White plays hane on the left side, the result is inferior for White when compared to the hane on the right. Reading is important when playing sabaki.



14: Black neglects defense and tries to kill the white group.

24: Black saves his stones.

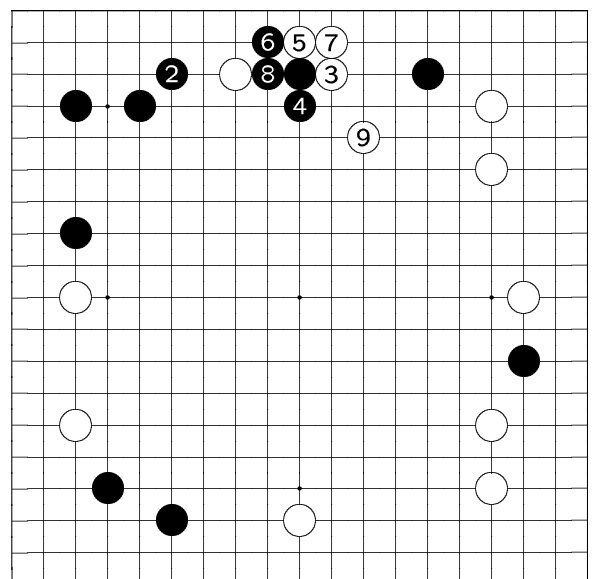
27: Black gets caught in a ladder.



4: Since Black cannot easily split White, he connects.

5: White chooses to live in the most valuable area.

15: Black becomes overconcentrated.



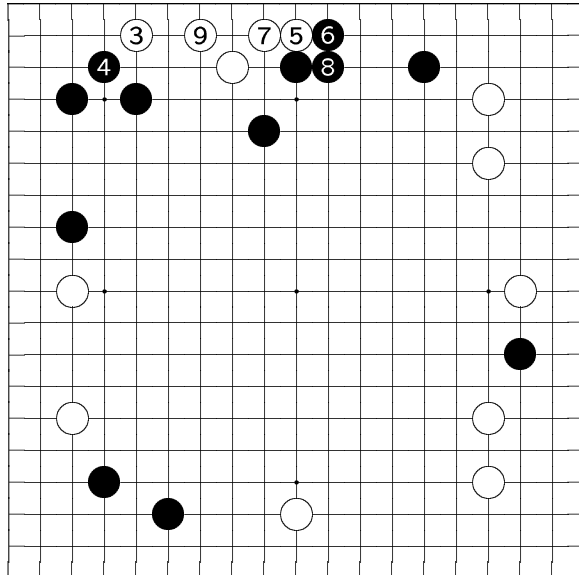
2: Instead of pressing outside, Black squeezes from the corner. Suddenly the white stone isn't as valuable because its area has shrunk to about 9 points from 20 points.

Now White may sacrifice it, providing it will be useful in the process.

9: White gets a nice position and Black is busy.

6: Black resists.

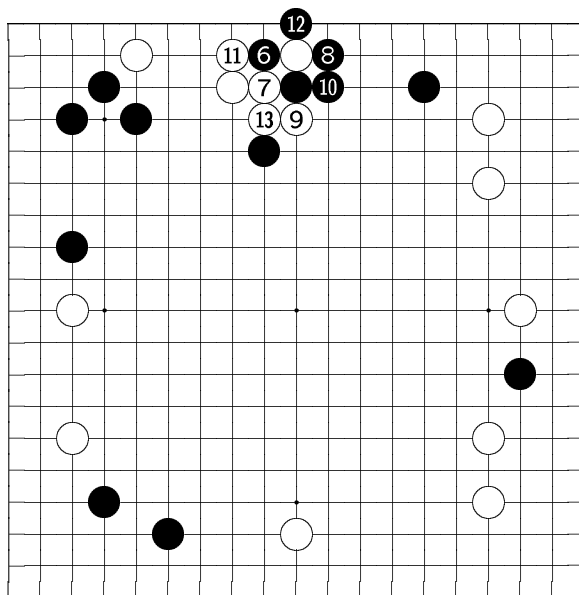
13: White moves out with free forcing moves. This is excellent for White, since Black's influence is spoiled.



3: This is useful to get a base.

4: This move is still necessary to stop White.

9: Up to here is normal and White lives. The upper area is destroyed.

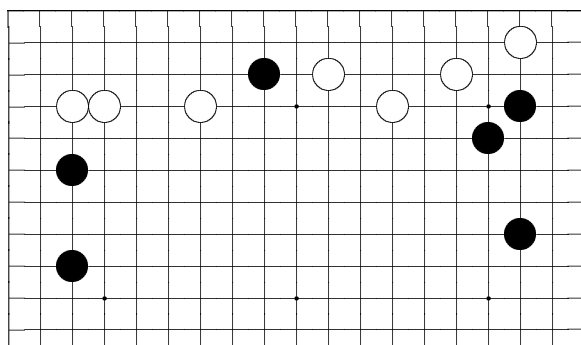


Section 2: Practice Problems

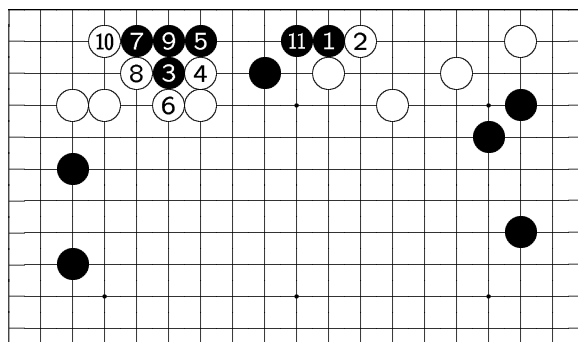
Six sabaki guidelines:

1. Running may be ok if you get counter-attacking potential, but avoid it if you will merely become heavy.
2. Sacrifice when your stone is not important and the area is not valuable; otherwise, live inside.
3. Don't take a gote move unless you see a nice picture. Use forcing moves to make sabaki. If necessary, play to generate forcing moves.
4. The crosscut and the double hane are two important sabaki techniques to generate forcing moves. Reading is necessary to determine the better choice.
5. If you make a battle nearby you should win one of them. Getting 50 percent in a sabaki situation is good enough.
6. Be flexible depending on your opponent's responses. Sometimes play an asking move.

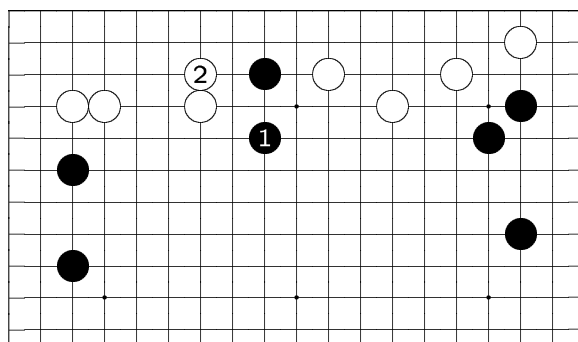
Problem 1



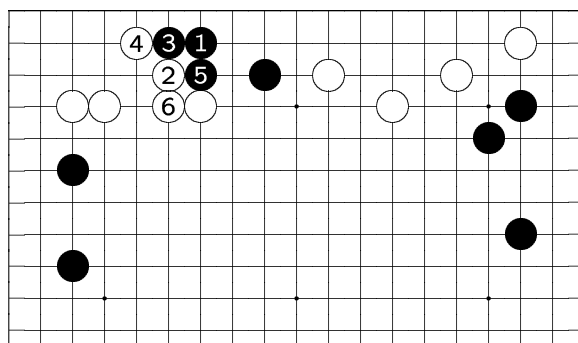
Black has a weak stone on the top; what is the best way to help it?



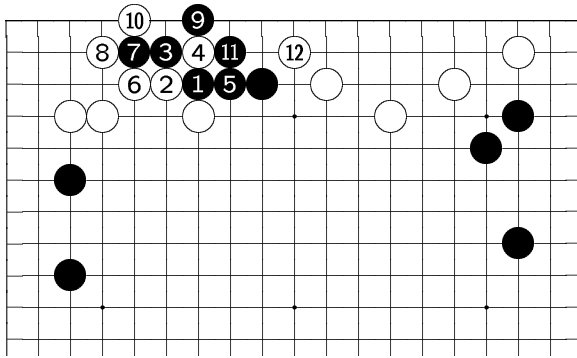
- 1: This is good timing.
- 2: The proper answer.
- 5: A fast way to make eye space.
- 11: Black makes a nice eye space.



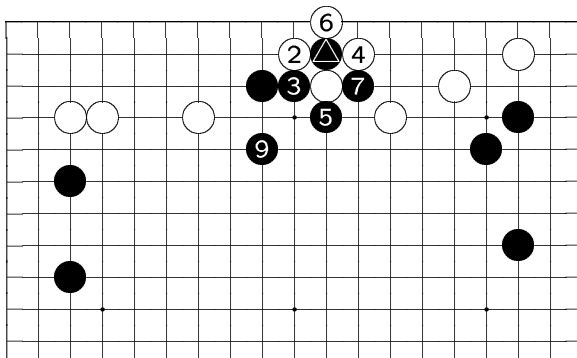
- 1: This is a normal way to run.
- 2: White defends, which is also a valuable attack. Black is floating.



- 6: Black played useful forcing moves, but can't get enough eye space for living.



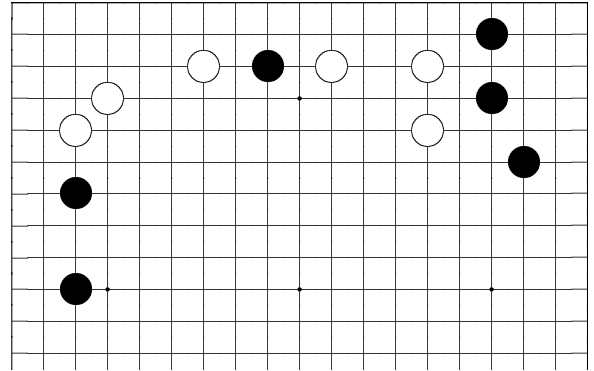
- 3: Attachment followed by the double hane is a common tesuji.
 4: But White will play a forcing move.
 6: White defends.
 12: Black doesn't have two eyes.



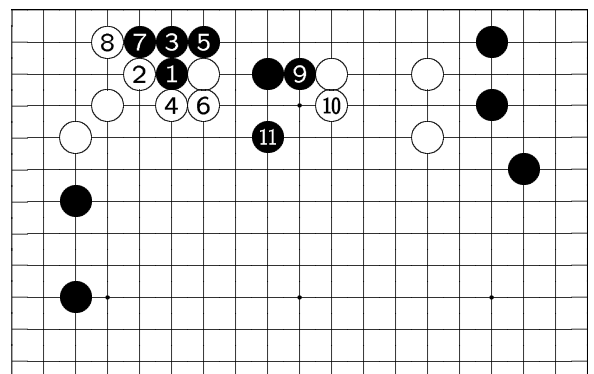
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 at

- 3: If White cuts, Black plays forcing moves.
 9: Black makes shape, which is good enough for him.

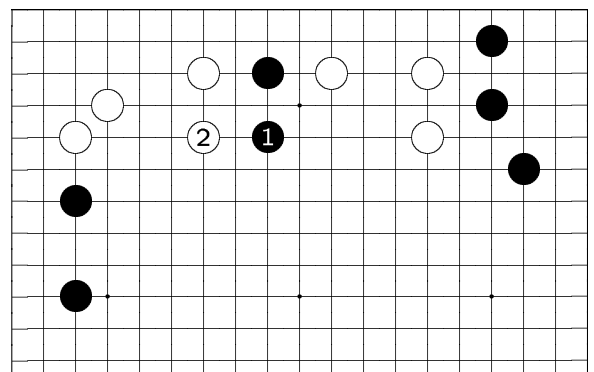
Problem 2



The black single stone is really weak. How should Black help it?

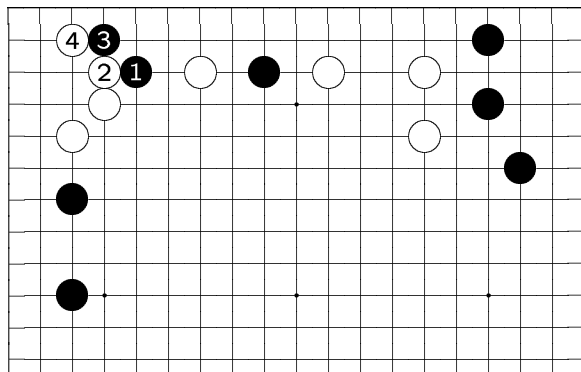


- 1: This is the best move.
 2: The correct response.
 5: Black gets some eye space and points.
 9: This is a good forcing move.
 11: Black's group is fine.

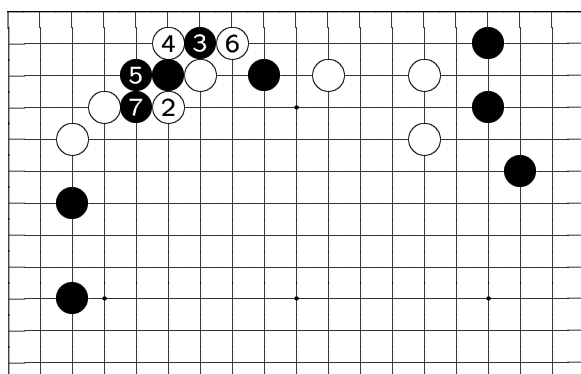


- 1: This is a slow running move.

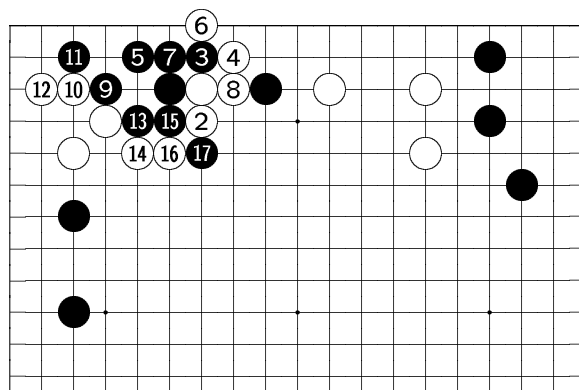
2: White will squeeze from here, which helps White's top left corner. Black lacks eye space.



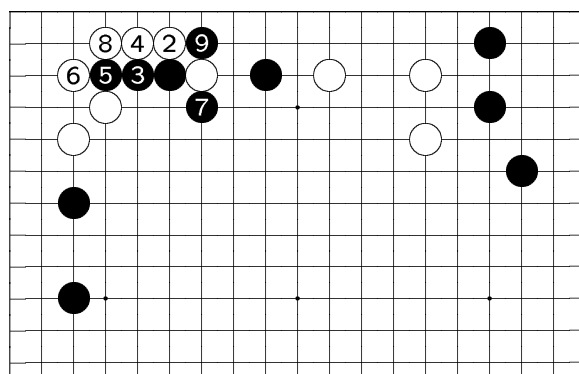
1: This is a common invasion.
3: But after this forcing move, Black lacks a good follow-up.



3: If White squeezes, Black will hane.
7: Even though White might capture a stone, Black will push out. White loses control.

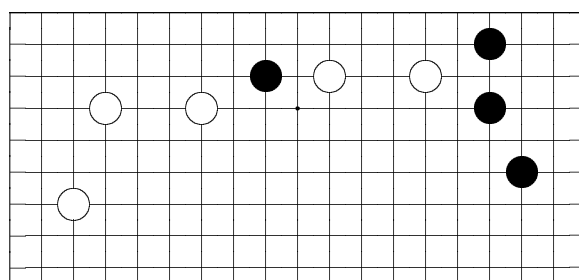


2: White extends his liberties.
3: Black plays forcing moves.
16: Black lives in sente.
17: This is bad for White.

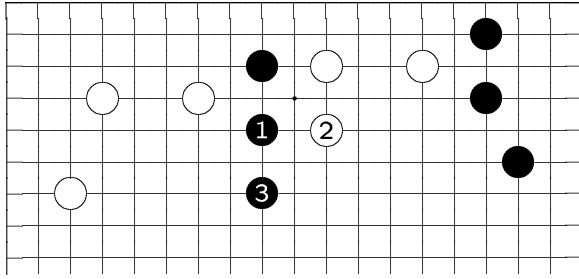


6: White played strong moves.
9: Black captures a white stone; he is still fine.

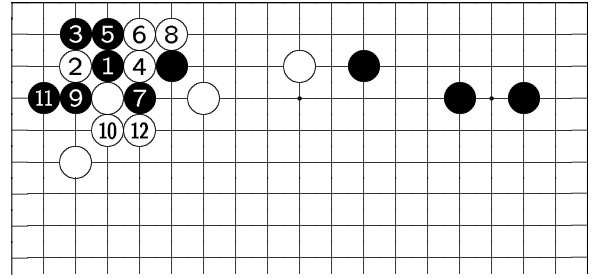
Problem 3



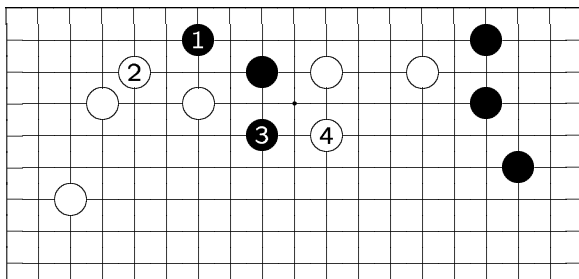
Black's single stone looks important. What is the best way to help it?



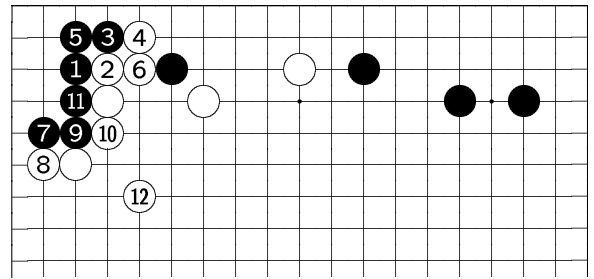
- 1: Black has to simply move out in this case.
 3: When Black moves out, it also puts pressure on White's top right group. White's top left corner is weak, too.



- 1: The attachment, followed by a double hane, is a nice combination.
 12: Even though White splits Black and makes thickness, Black gets the corner in sente. It isn't bad at all.

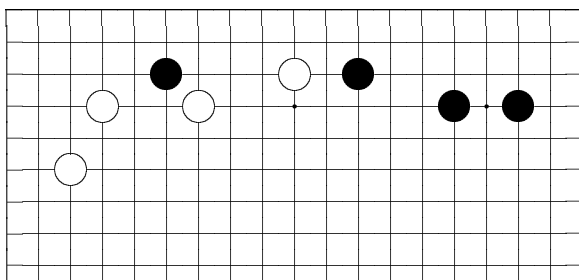


- 1: This is a common forcing move.
 2: But it will help White get stronger in the top left corner.
 3: Black doesn't have enough space to live; therefore, this move is still necessary.
 4: This isn't good for Black.

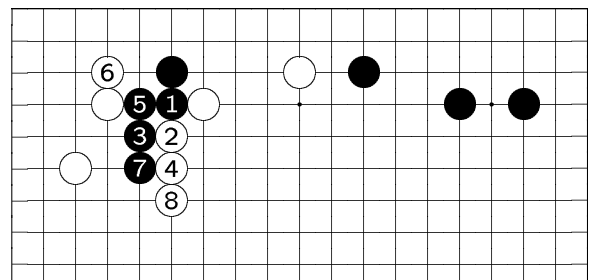


- 1: This is an easy way to take the corner.
 12: But it isn't good enough in this case. White makes a nice influence outside and many points.

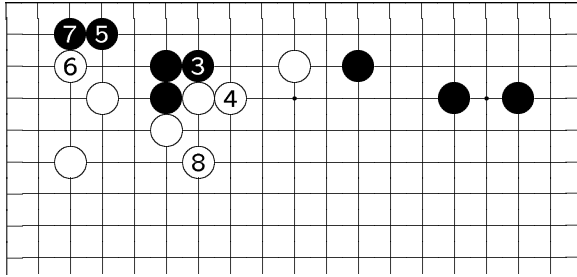
Problem 4



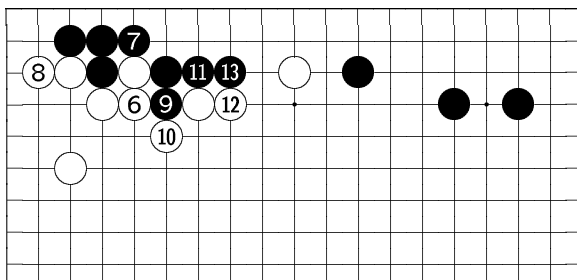
Black's single stone is under pressure. Which move is the proper continuation?



- 3: This seems a natural way to play.
 5: This is necessary.
 6: White takes big profit.
 8: Even though Black might push out, White controls the outside. Black seems forced into a narrow area.

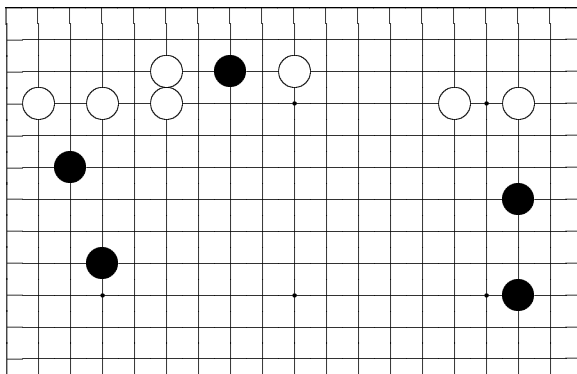


5: Black played useful forcing moves.
 8: Black will probably live inside. But White's outside is thick.

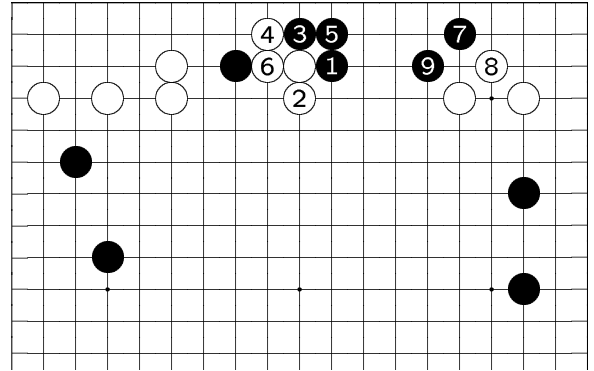


6: White might connect.
 13: Black lives. The White outside shape isn't that good because it has many cutting points.

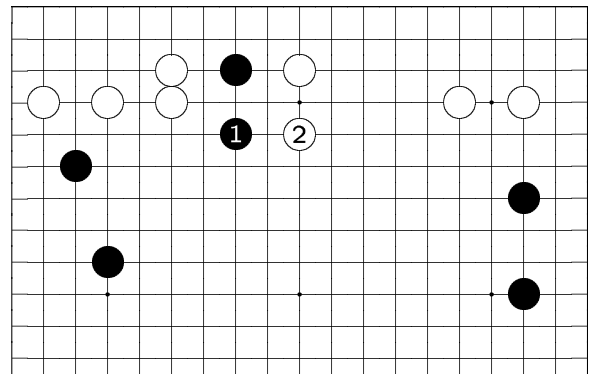
Problem 5



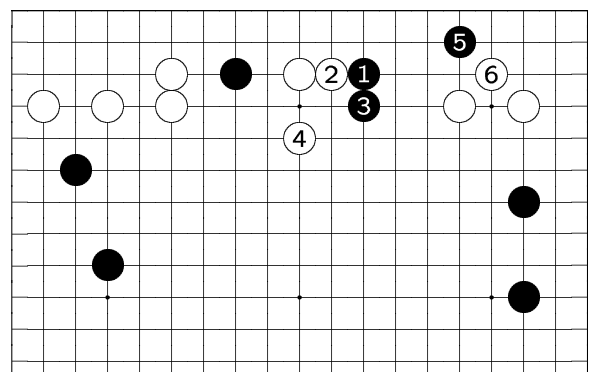
Black has a weak stone on the top side. How should he handle the situation?



1: This is the best move in this case.
 2: White will usually extend his liberties.
 5: Black played sente moves.
 7: This is a nice forcing move.
 9: Black makes a comfortable position.

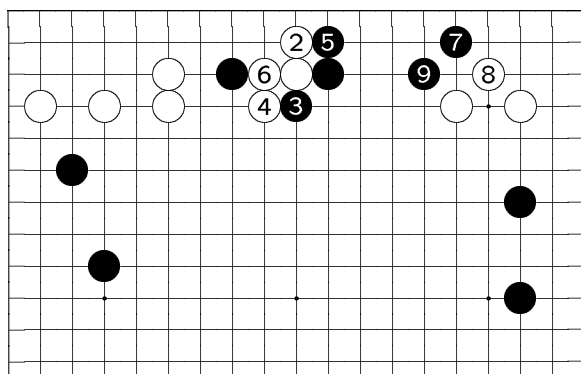


1: Black might simply run out. It saves a small stone and is boring.
 2: When White squeezes, the top right area expands.

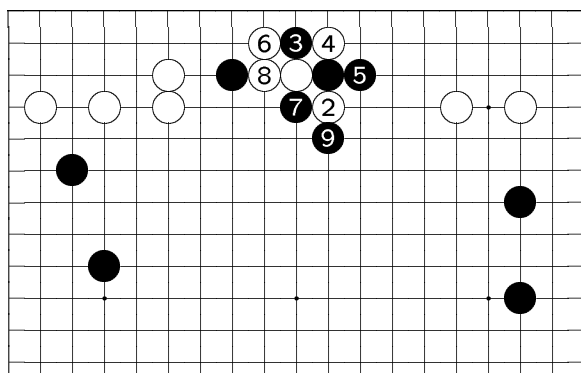


1: This move is ok.

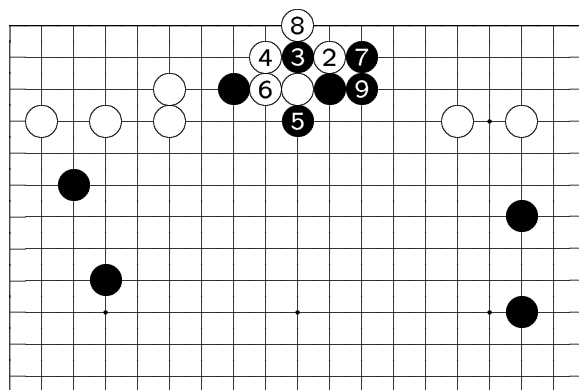
5: But after White defended, Black lacks a forcing move.
 6: It isn't easy for Black to make a comfortable position.



3: If White descends, Black has these forcing moves.
 7: This is still playable.
 9: Black makes a position.

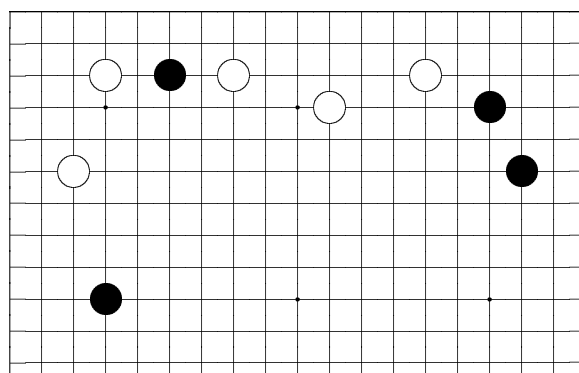


3: When White plays hane, Black will also hane.
 9: Even though White captures a stone, Black kills an outside stone by the ladder. This is a good trade for Black.

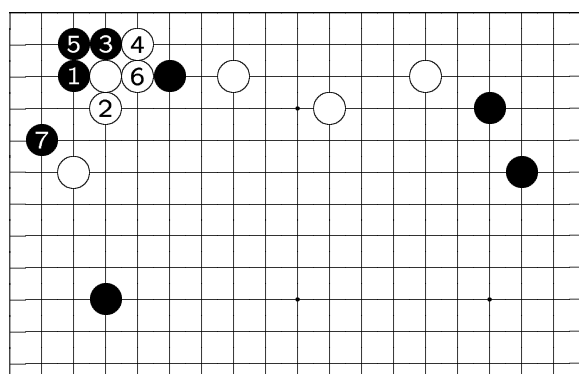


2: White might defend here.
 3: Black will give up a stone.
 5: Black gets useful forcing moves.
 9: Black is fine.

Problem 6

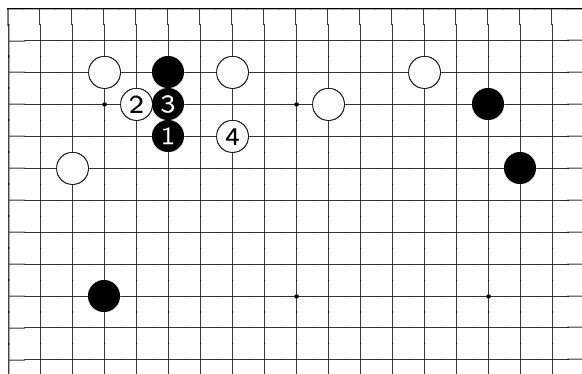


Black's single stone is under attack. Does Black have to run out or find another way?

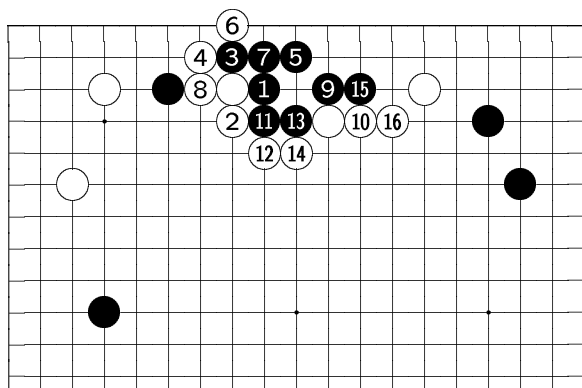


1: This is a nice sabaki, the best way to make the top black single stone useful.

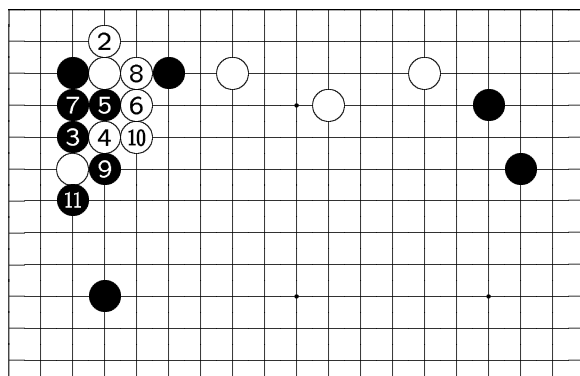
- 2: This is a normal response.
 5: Black played sente moves.
 7: Black lives. He gets the corner, which is more valuable than the top single stone.



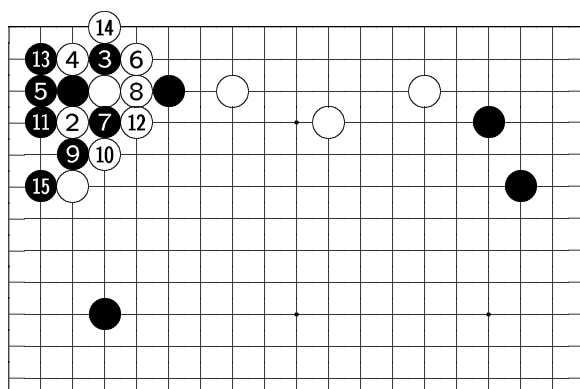
- 1: This is a normal way to run.
 2: This is a useful forcing move that helps the top left corner.
 4: White plays a nice squeeze that helps the top side. This is a bad result for Black.



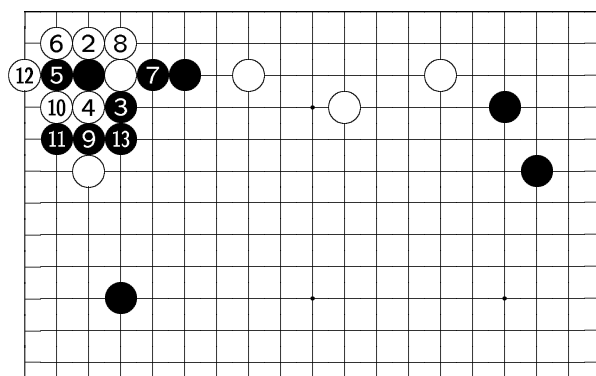
- 1: This is a nice-looking move.
 16: Even though Black has many forcing moves and lives, White's top left corner is big and White's outside shape is very thick.



- 5: Black played good moves. They leave many cutting points in White's shape.

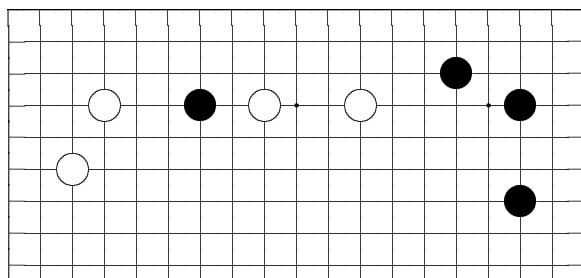


- 2: White squeezes.
 3: Black can give up a stone.
 15: Black will live easily. This is enough.

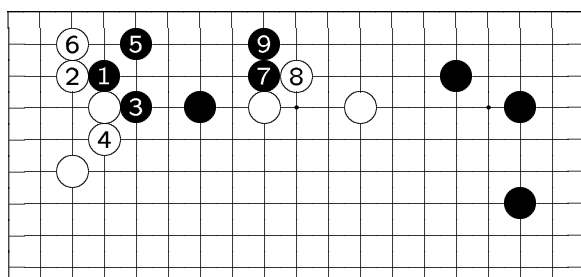


- 3: If White squeezes from the inside, Black will hane.
 13: Even though White kills Black's inside group, Black makes nice thickness. This is bad for White.

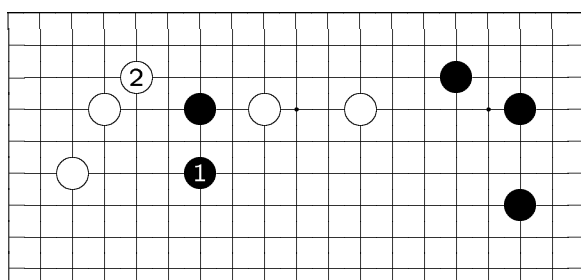
Problem 7



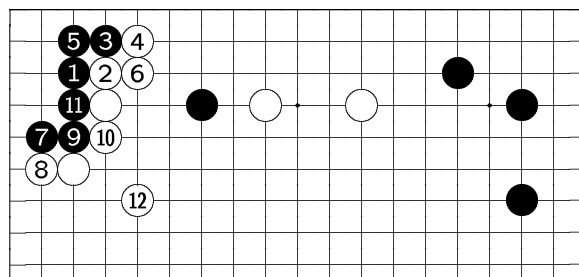
Black's single stone is alone. Please try your best to help it.



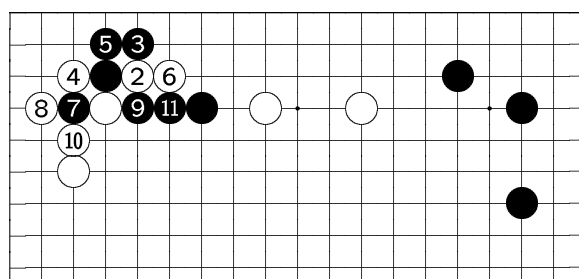
- 1: This is a nice forcing move.
- 2: This is the correct defense since the corner is valuable.
- 5: Black played sente moves.
- 7: This is another good forcing move.
- 9: Black makes a nice position.



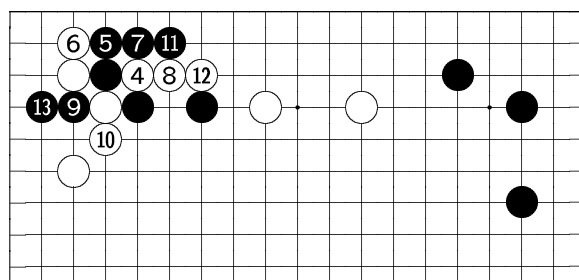
- 1: This is an easy way to escape.
- 2: White will defend, which also takes away Black's base. Black is floating.



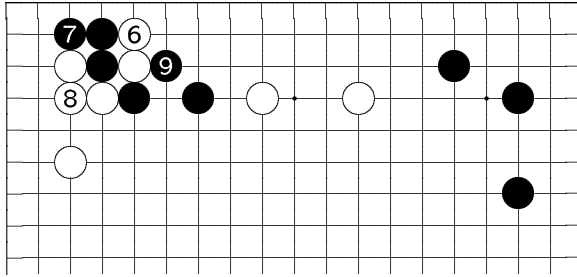
- 1: This is a common invasion.
- 5: Black played forcing moves.
- 12: Even though Black can live, White's outside shape is too good. Black's top single stone wasn't useful.



- 6: The white moves seem like a strong attack.
- 7: Black will give up a stone.
- 11: So Black can capture White's two stones. This is terrible for White.

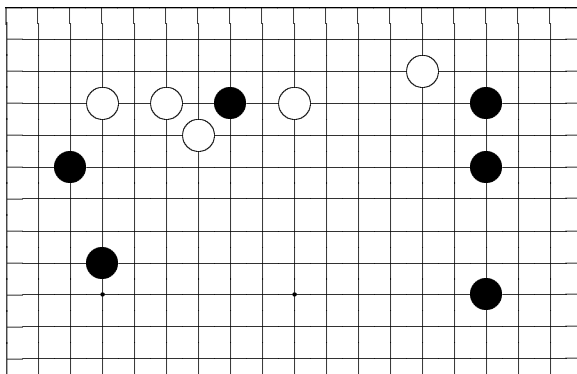


- 7: White cuts and blocks, but Black can extend his liberties.
- 13: Then Black kills White's corner.

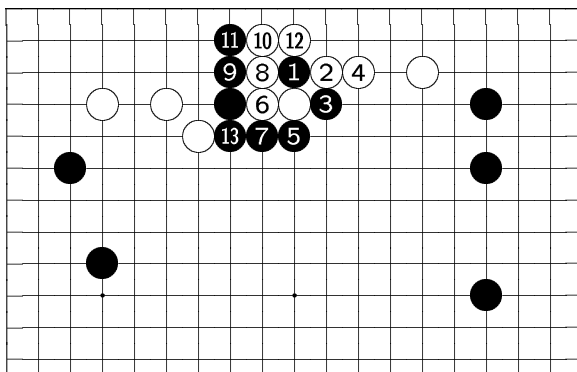


- 7: When White squeezes from the right side, Black will extend his liberties.
 8: White defends against the double atari.
 9: Black simply kills White's two stones.

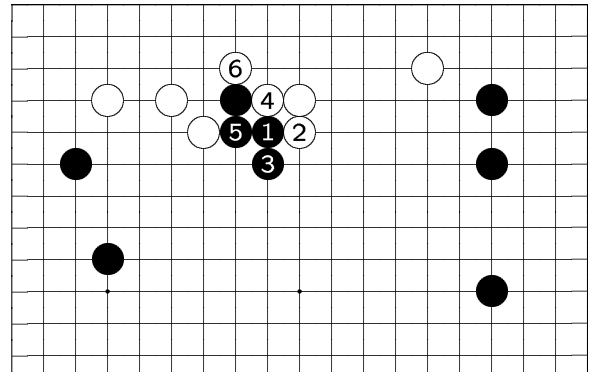
Problem 8



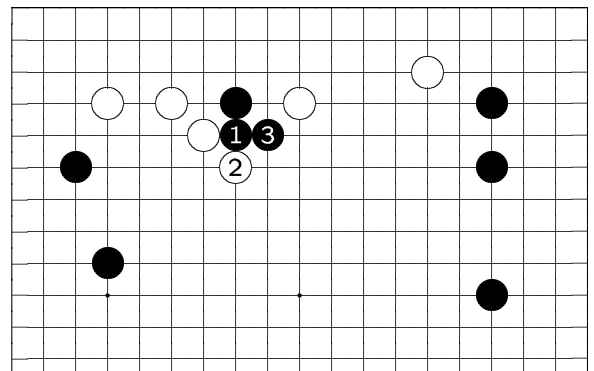
Black's single stone is under great pressure. How should Black continue?



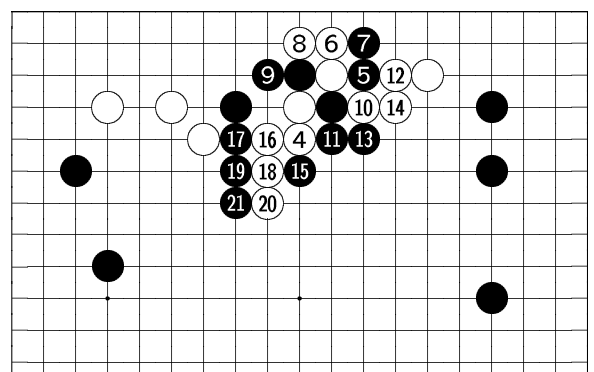
- 1: This is correct.
 2: White helps a weak stone.
 3: This is the best way for Black.
 13: Black makes thickness outside. It hurts White's top left group.



- 1: This helps the weak stone run out.
 2: It leaves two forcing moves for White.
 6: White connects, securing many points on the top side. It is really bad for Black.

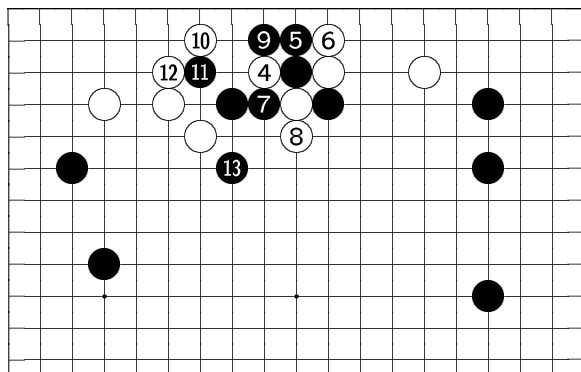


- 1: This is a better way to run.
 3: Black must move out here. It is heavy and ugly.

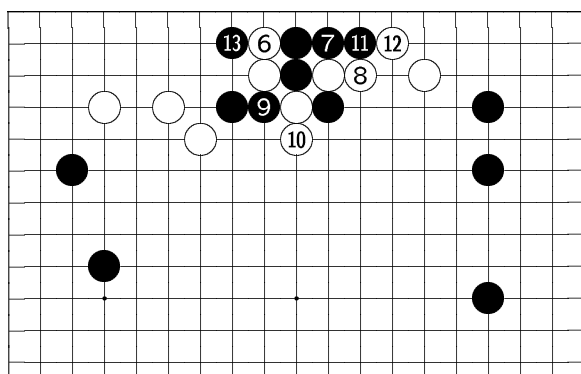


- 4: White helps the other weak stone.

- 5: Black squeezes.
- 8: White gets more liberties.
- 12: White kills Black's two stones.
- 17: Black played nice forcing moves.
- 21: White is in trouble.

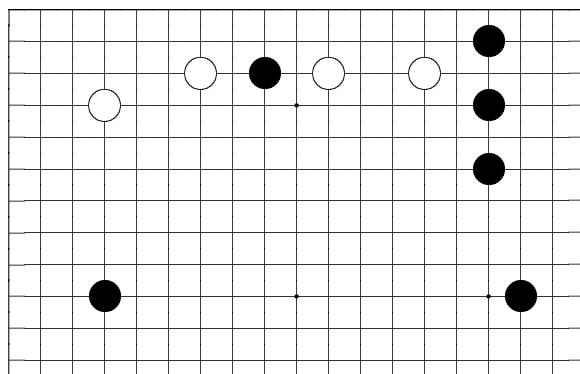


- 4: White attacks directly.
- 9: Black captures a stones.
- 10: White takes away Black's eye space.
- 13: Black can get out and is safe.

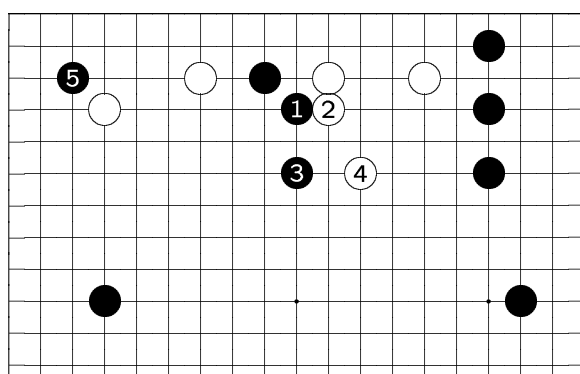


- 6: This is a bad play.
- 7: Black increases liberties.
- 13: Black kills White.

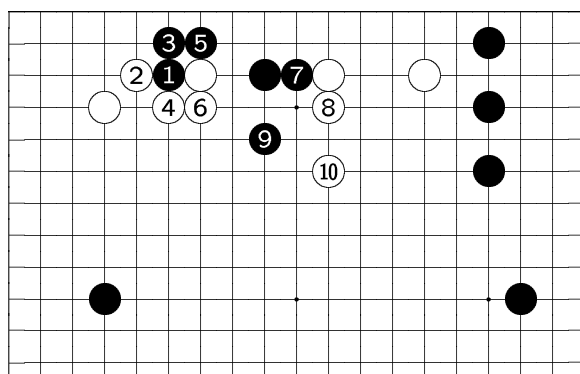
Problem 9



Black has a weak stone on the top side.
What is the proper play in this situation?

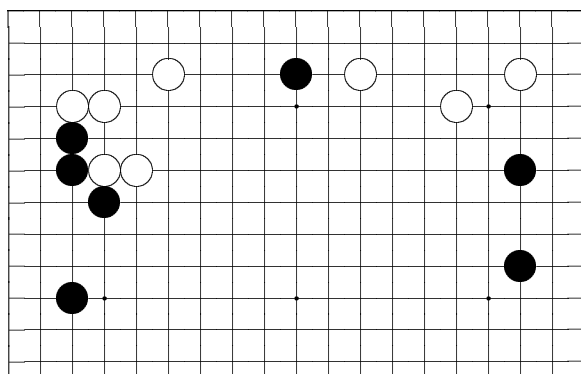


- 1: Black has to save the single stone because it might split White into two weak groups.
- 5: After Black gets out, he can invade the corner immediately. It is an efficient play.

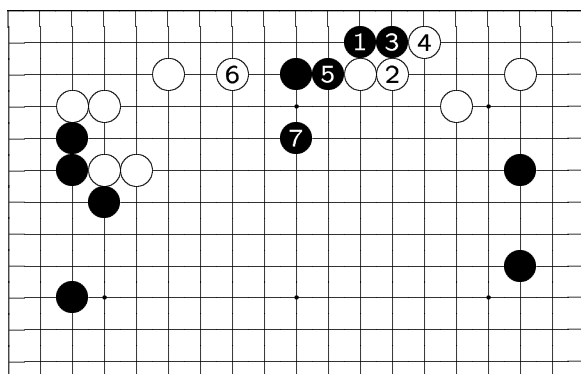


- 1: Even though this is a nice-looking move...
- 2: ... White will defend here.
- 6: White's corner gets stronger.
- 10: This isn't good enough for Black.

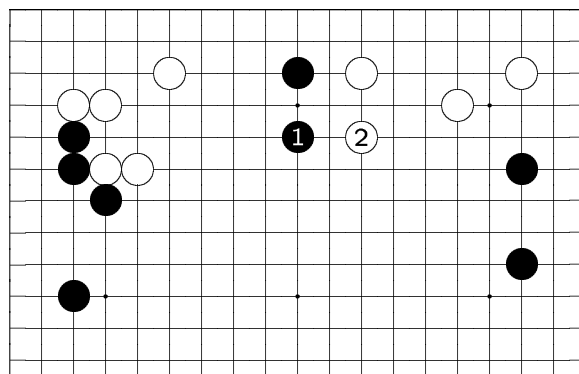
Problem 10



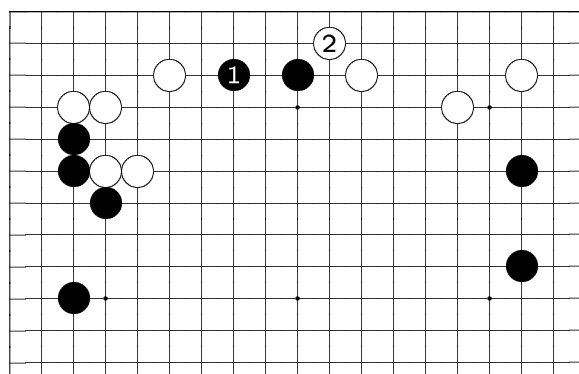
Black must help the top side stone immediately. How should he do it?



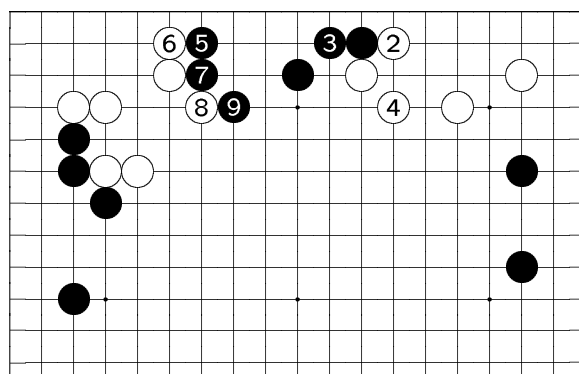
- 1: This is a great forcing move.
- 2: The best response that leaves less forcing moves for Black.
- 3: Takes away a liberty and creates a cutting point.
- 7: Black isn't weak.



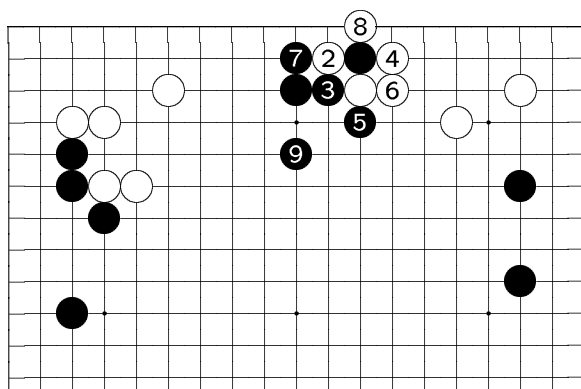
- 1: This seems like an easy move.
- 2: But White makes a nice position. Black is floating.



- 2: If Black extends, White will squeeze from this side. Black is still weak because Black doesn't have enough space to live.

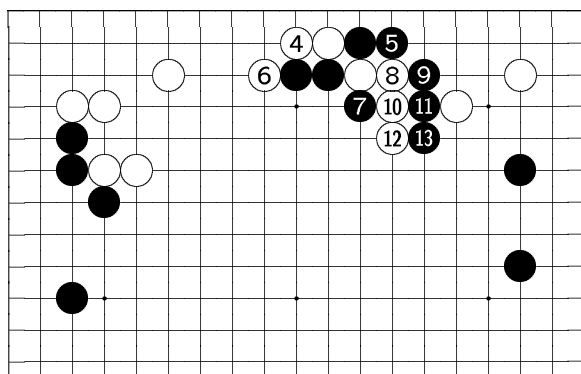


- 3: Black's connection is sente.
- 9: Black has developed eye space. White can't easily attack the black group.



5: If White captures a stone, Black has useful forcing moves.

9: Black makes shape. This black group isn't weak at all.



4: This is a strong move sometimes.

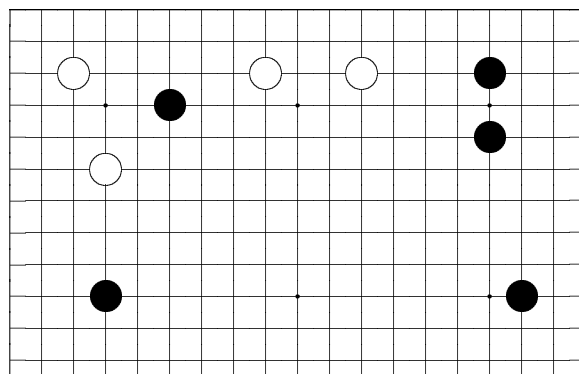
5: Black will increase his liberties.

6: This move is a must.

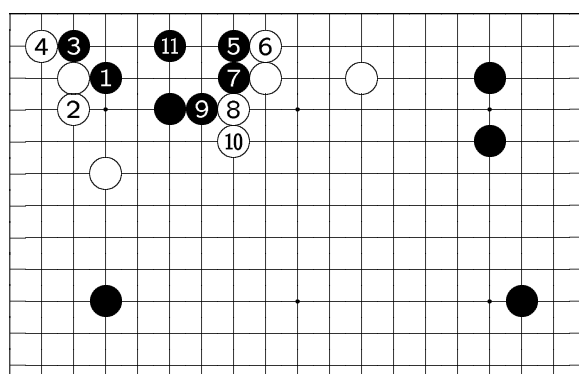
7: This is a driving tesuji.

13: Black moves out. It hurts White's top right corner. This is a good trade for Black.

Problem 11



Black's single stone is floating. Which is the better way for Black to continue?

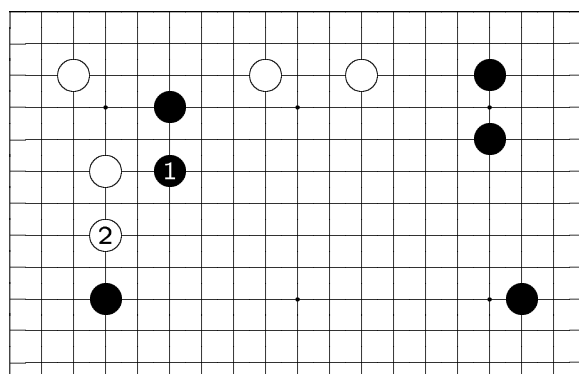


3: Black has played common forcing moves.

5: This is odd-looking but useful.

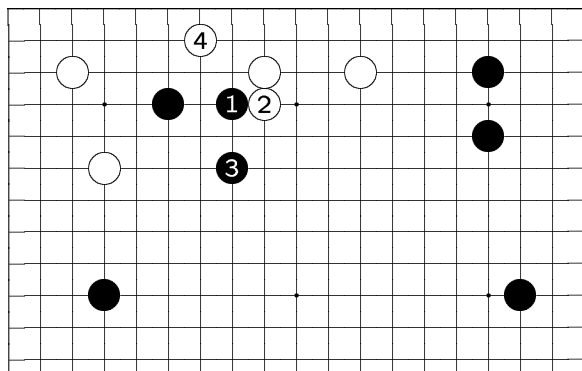
9: Black quickly makes a room.

11: This is a good defense. Black lives.

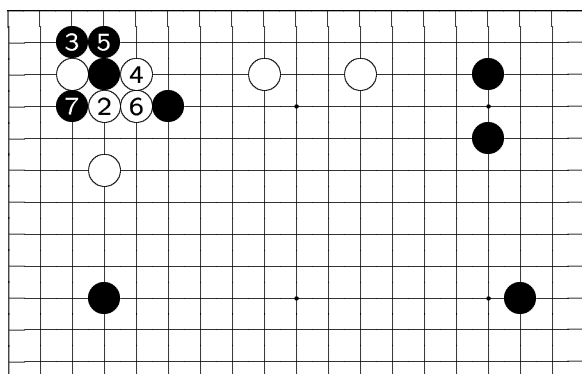


1: This is a normal way to run.

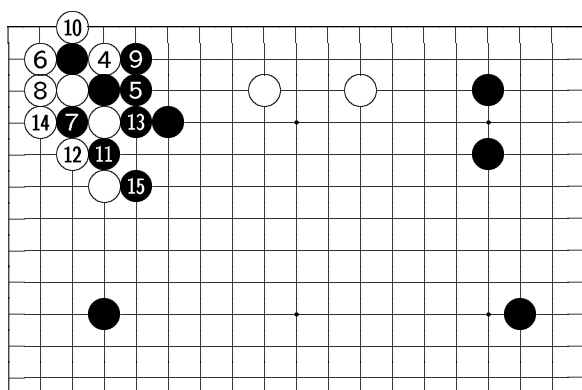
2: White will defend here. This exchange is great for White. Black is still weak.



- 1: This is a better way to run.
 4: But Black's group is still floating. It isn't good enough for Black.

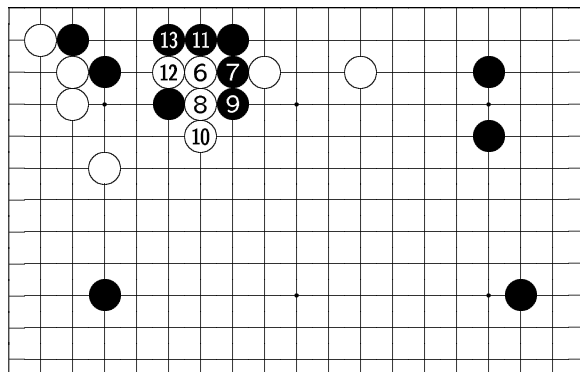


- 4: White will split Black.
 7: Black captures the White corner stone. It isn't bad for Black.



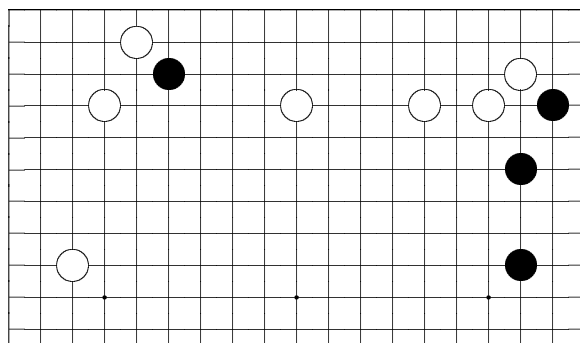
- 6: If White captures a stone, Black has forcing moves.

- 11: Moreover, Black can capture a stone.
 15: Black's shape gets much stronger. White's profit is small.

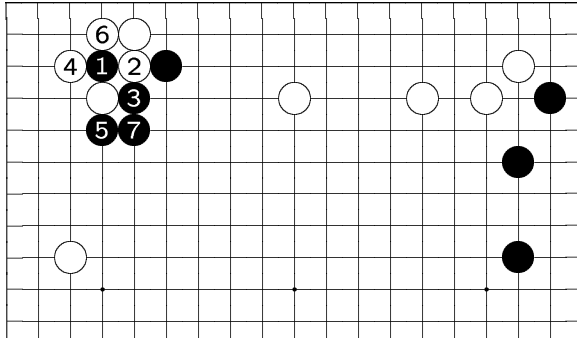


- 6: White tries to split Black.
 7: Black will push out.
 13: This hurts White's top side group. White can't get a big profit on the top left.

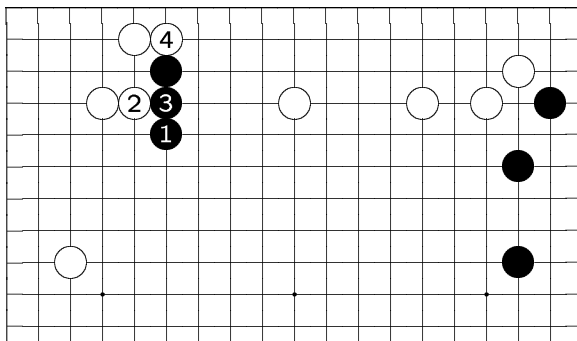
Problem 12



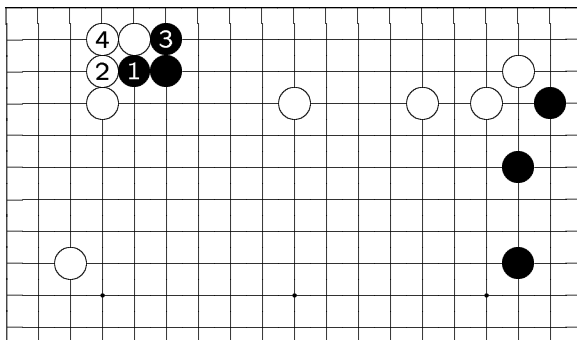
This is a common situation. What is the best way for Black?



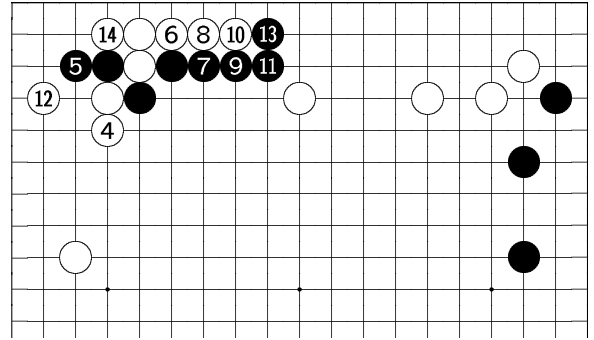
- 1: This is a smart play.
7: It gives up a stone to get stronger outside.



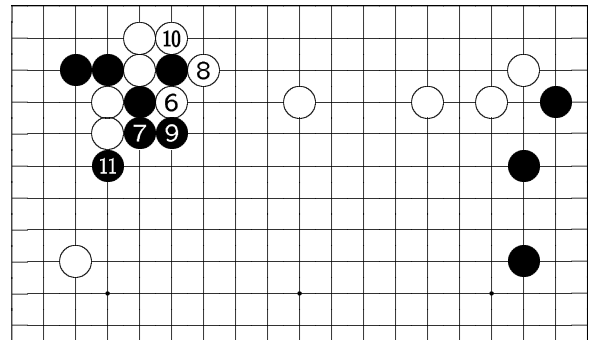
- 1: This is a simple way to escape.
2: White will peep to make Black heavy.
4: White will then take away Black's base. Black is floating.



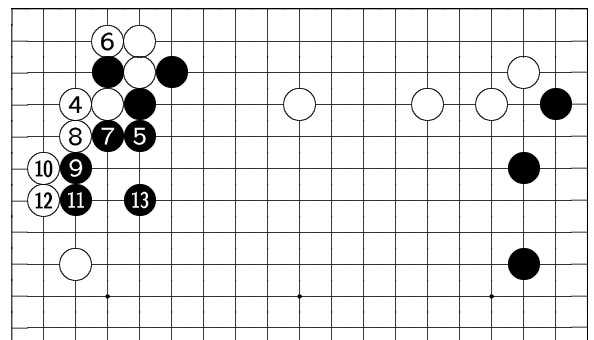
- 4: These are sente moves, but they help White's corner become stronger while Black remains weak.



- 5: If White extends, Black will obtain more liberties.
6: White is greedy.
14: Even though White eventually kills two black stones, White had to play many slow moves. This result is good enough for Black.



- 6: This is an easy way to help White's two top stones.
11: But White will lose two side stones. This is very bad for White.



- 4: This is a solid defense.
5: Black will extend out first.

7: Black then has many forcing moves from this onward.

13: Black gets strong outside shape.